

SigEp Journal



Sigma Phi Epsilon
SPRING 2009

**"The challenge is to
change the culture,
and the need is to
reinvent Fraternity."
Frank Ruck**

Tarrytown:
**Frank
Ruck left his
leadership
mark**

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Texas Tech speeds
up success curve, page 24

Making waves behind
the camera, page 42

2009 Conclave:
Educate, Legislate, Celebrate

page 15



Stephen B. Shanklin, Murray State '70, served as a regional director for the Headquarters staff and has volunteered for numerous chapters and national committees. In 2001, he was inducted into the Order of the Golden Heart, and he was elected to the National Board of Directors in 2005. Brother Shanklin and his wife, Darlene, live in Martin, Tenn., where he is an instructor in accounting at the University of Southern Indiana. They have a daughter, Anna, and son, Jon, who is a member of the Indiana Zeta Chapter at Valparaiso University.

Leaving the *right* mark on your chapter...

Your National Board of Directors recently chose the theme “Leave Your Mark” for the 2009 Sigma Phi Epsilon Conclave in Orlando, Fla. And while we plan to have some creative fun with the theme and the Conclave, the under girding message, in the form of a question, is quite clear. What mark will you leave on your chapter and Sigma Phi Epsilon?

SigEp is in the enviable position of being a leader in the Greek world and in campus leadership development programming because of the marks left by many brothers over our 107-year history. There have been numerous men who have not only left their mark on their chapters, but who also have committed to make a lasting contribution on the national Fraternity stage as well. These men live by the fundamental principles we all embrace, and also dared to stretch the expectations of our entire organization to find new ways of encouraging their brothers to reach even higher levels of achievement for themselves and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Today's undergraduate chapter brothers reap the benefits of decades of alumni and volunteer efforts and contributions that have left a positive and lasting mark on the campuses where we still excel. But on more than one hundred campuses across the nation, the mark left was either insufficient to generate a successful SigEp experience or we withdrew our charter because we left a negative mark on the campus life of the host institution.

This academic year, the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation is committing \$1,000,000 in educational funding to the Fraternity to have an impact on the maximum number of young brothers across the nation to assure that every single man has the chance to succeed in their fraternal quest toward excellence. Our national Headquarters staff is further committing its time and resources to assure that all chapters are given every chance of success. The re-launched volunteer initiative from three years ago is now actively identifying, recruiting, and training new volunteers as district governors, chapter counselors, Alumni and Volunteer

Corporation members, faculty fellows, and numerous other positions to fully support the quality of our chapters nationwide. There is a role for everyone who wants to leave their mark in making Sigma Phi Epsilon THE premier collegiate organization on every host campus.

When we accept this great challenge of principle and excellence, we reaffirm our legacy of innovation, motivation, and a commitment to being the Fraternity that does not fear the declaration of being *different*. This is our strength; this is our heritage. Let us do honor to the giants of our past in developing the young giants for our future. Participate in the life of your chapter or a chapter on a campus near you. Encourage every brother to engage in some way in the Leadership Continuum and Educational Foundation events that are planned across the nation.

“Let us do honor to the giants of our past in developing the young giants for our future.”

In my travels to support the activities of our chapters across the country, I am struck by the enthusiasm and commitment to the goals and vision of our Fraternity. Brothers, young and old alike, are dedicated to a better environment in developing the character and talents of each new member who chooses SigEp. The great chapters of our Fraternity have always created an environment where “it is easy for young men to do right and difficult to do wrong.”

The Ritual & Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon is clear in its call to lives of principle and service. To every undergraduate and alumnus, I trust that you will choose to “Leave Your Mark” for Principle and Excellence. It is the duty of every Sigma Phi Epsilon.

In the bonds and commitment to Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love...

Steve

A stylized, handwritten signature of Stephen B. Shanklin in black ink.

STEPHEN B. SHANKLIN
Grand President

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ON THE COVER

Frank Ruck, Michigan '46, at the 1971 Conclave in Atlanta, Ga., takes on his National Board role of Grand Treasurer. He went on to serve as Grand President from 1983 to 1985. That determined look may have foretold his conviction to give the Fraternity and its staff a singular mission and focus at Tarrytown in 1984. This game-changing gathering guided the Fraternity to the end of the 20th century and echoes through current SigEp strategic planning efforts.



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Thomas Baudendistel, Cincinnati '11
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SigEp Journal

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The *SigEp Journal* is published three times per year by Sigma Phi Epsilon, founded in 1901, for the undergraduates and alumni of the Fraternity.

Deadlines for submitting articles or story ideas for the *SigEp Journal* come in the following weeks each year: Spring issue: November 1; Summer Issue: March 1; Fall Issue: July 1

The *Journal* welcomes all submissions. Decisions to publish material we receive is based on the sole discretion of the editorial staff.

ADVERTISING: Advertising is accepted in half page or full page increments as space allows. Deadlines for artwork are as follows: Spring Issue: December 1; Summer Issue: April 1; Fall Issue: August 1. For ad specifications, please contact Director of Marketing Communications Aaron Granger, aaron.granger@sigep.net.

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Vacant districts are not listed.



Calling all chapters!

The Summer 2009 *SigEp Journal* will include Chapter of the Year Awards, and members who serve as student government association presidents and vice presidents as well as those who are officers with the Interfraternity Conference on their campus. Look for a request in an upcoming Officers Monthly to submit this information for your chapter!

Journal readers respond to new design

Dear Journal Editor,

I was very pleased to receive my fall 2008 copy of the *SigEp Journal*. One can tell a lot of effort went into overhauling this into a fresh and appealing publication for its readers. As always, the articles were well written and engaging; however, it was the layout that has changed for the better. The *SigEp Journal* would now look at home on newsstands with *Time* and *Newsweek*! Keep up the good work, and I will be looking forward to the spring edition.

Sincerely,

CHRIS JOHNSON, Western Michigan '03
English Instructor, Mona Shores High School

Dear Gay-Lynn:

Congratulations to you and your staff for an exemplary job updating the *SigEp Journal*. The quality exhibited in this most recent issue has built upon the always-anticipated framework established by your predecessor, Scott Thompson.

I have long felt that an organization's publications should reflect (and enhance) the prestige, vigor, and idealism of the group's membership and in this regard you have been eminently successful. The magazine really captures the essence of the SigEp experience. I look forward to observing further revisions and refinements and reading future issues cover to cover, as is my habit.

In Phi,

MATT MEANS, Northern Colorado, '97



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEOPARDY PRODUCTIONS INC.

Spelling bee champ and SigEp scholarship recipient wins Jeopardy Teen Tournament

Sixteen-year-old Anurag Kashyap was the 2005 Scripps National Spelling Bee winner and SigEp scholarship recipient. Kashyap, shown above with host Alex Trebek, won the Jeopardy! Teen Tournament in November, adding \$75,000 in winnings to his college fund. The Poway, Calif., senior said, "I was shocked to win the championship, because the other fourteen contestants were extremely smart and capable." The future biochemist has gained early acceptance to MIT. In his spare time he enjoys reading and playing football and tennis with his friends. He is also an avid horror movie aficionado, saying, "Japanese horror flicks are the best." Congratulations Anurag!

One more pleased parent

My son is a member of your Fraternity at San Diego State. Like most parents, you worry when your children leave home. You can't protect them anymore; you

hope they make wise choices. When he first approached me last year about the Fraternity he hoped to join, I admit, I was worried given the bad rap fraternities receive. Over the last

year, I've seen my son become a better man, and I believe one key reason is SigEp. He has spoken of brothers that he looks up to, listens to and the Balanced Man Ideals of this Fraternity.

It makes me feel at ease to know that he's with quality people who look out for one another, push each other to reach higher goals and have high self expectations. Thank you for this.

I'm so happy my son is a part of the Sigma Phi Epsilon family. Sincerely,

CAROL YAJI
Mother of Jimmy Yaji,
San Diego State '11

"I've seen my son become a better man, and I believe one key reason is SigEp"

~ CAROL YAJI

Bringing out the citizen in a Balanced Man



By **ARTHUR PETERSON**,
Ph.D., Lawrence '47

Dr. Peterson graduated from Yale after transferring there from Lawrence as an undergraduate. He earned a master's from Southern California and a Ph.D. from Minnesota in political philosophy. Dr. Peterson is on the Board of Fellows of the Thunderbird School of Global Management and served as its President from 1966-69. His interest in classical-political thought led him into politics as a member in the Wisconsin and Montana State Legislatures, and he personally worked in various capacities with five U.S. Presidents: Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, the elder George Bush and Reagan.

In the Fall *Journal*, I noted with great interest that the National Board of Directors has commissioned the “most comprehensive, inclusive review and strategic planning process since the Tarrytown Conference.”

The Balanced Man concept strongly reflects elements in classical Greek education that are worth repeating. And, as Executive Director Craig Templeton pointed out, the program has led to major, positive transformations in the larger fraternity movement.

This concept of balance is reflected in every element of ancient Greek society: the arts, education, architecture and politics, to name a few. I'd like to suggest a way the National Board of Directors can more fully reflect the classical ideals of balance in its strategic planning process. Let us consider the citizen in balanced men.

I believe that the principal goal of public education in the Greek city states was to raise good future citizens. I heard this position brilliantly and passionately presented by Yale President Bart Giamatti when he welcomed the 1988 freshman class. Giamatti, a noted classics scholar, reminded the incoming Elis that they were at Yale not only to prepare for successful professional careers and richer, more satisfying personal lives, but that in a larger sense, their charge was to prepare for their life-long incumbency in the highest office in the land, “The Office of The Citizen.” Giamatti was known to remind his faculty colleagues that music, art, the sciences, history, and literature were all worthy academic subjects, but producing good citizens was the basic purpose of classical Greek civilization.

Look carefully at the public education curriculum in Sparta and note that, while a “sound mind in a sound body” was a central objective, Greeks were also taught democracy from the very start of their schooling—not just theory, but behaviors and actions that brought democracy to life. At age seven, boys were organized into teams, or “herds.” They elected their own leaders, and some sources suggest they also selected their instructors from among the eligible 20-year-olds. These seeds of the democratic process, planted early, bore the fruit of committed citizens who had learned to take part fully in the fate and future of their government.

Pericles, the Athenian leader who helped rebuild Athens after the Persian Wars, believed strongly that serving in government was both a privilege and a responsibility. “[Our citizens]” he wrote, “though having private affairs to which to attend and though occupied with the pursuits of industry, are still fair judges of public matters, for unlike any other nation, we believe that the man who takes no part in these duties [of the citizen] is not only unambitious; he is useless.”

Indeed as the Tragos Quest to Greece students will discover, the two greatest contributions of the Greeks to the modern democratic world were: constitutionalism and the concept of the informed and involved citizen.

How does this crucial role as citizen connect with the upcoming review and strategic planning process for the future of the Fraternity? I would suggest that we have an opportunity to realize the totality of the classical Greek education. We have magnificently developed and reinforced the two-sided concept of the Balanced Man. The ideal of a sound mind in a sound body is the foundation for any man's move toward greatness. We have also created thoughtful and effective leadership development programs for more productive private and public service.

But we have not quite closed the circle. In my opinion, the Fraternity must secure the *commitment* of that balanced man and that potential leader to engage in public service. Then we honor the citizen who must have a stake in the democratic process.

Might I suggest that the Fraternity promote a strong mind in a strong body committed to life-long leadership in the public arena? Let the discourse begin!



The Pnyx (pronounced “pniks” in Modern Greek) is a small, rocky hill that sits in the shadow of the Acropolis. It's large, flat stone platform was the meeting place of the world's first ever democratic legislature, the Athenian *ekklesia* (assembly). It is estimated that some 6000 men would stand and listen or speak. The Pnyx represents the Greek concept of “equal speech,” the right of every citizen to debate matters of policy. Ancient Greek civilization placed great value on public service, and Dr. Peterson argues, so should SigEp.

**“He who is
not a good
servant
will not be
a good
master.”**

~ PLATO



Red Door Notes

The red door on SigEp chapter houses started at Syracuse University in 1928. While not the only factor in a high performing chapter, well appointed chapter facilities establish the foundation for creating the right experience through efforts like the Balanced Man Program and Residential Learning Communities.

Tulane chapter renovates Craftsman-style house



- Louisiana Alpha recolonized at Tulane University in 1990 after a 50-year absence from the campus.
- The chapter recently moved to its newly renovated property, an 80-year-old Craftsman-style home, a 6,000-square-

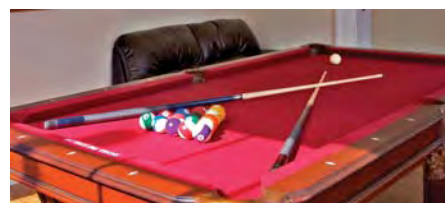
foot facility that underwent a year-long, \$400,000 renovation.

- The design and construction activities were overseen by New Orleans architect David Glasgow and Alumni and Volunteer Corpora-

tion President and civil engineer **David Lourie, IIT '79**.

- The house has hurricane-resistant windows on the ground floor, controlled building access, Energy Star appliances and compact fluorescent light fixtures.

- The downstairs living area has capacity for nine brothers. The upstairs is the social center of brotherhood life and amenities include pool table, dartboard and comfortable furnishings. The walls are decorated



with historical memorabilia of the chapter.

- SigEp at Tulane is the largest fraternity on campus with 78 men. The chapter ranks at the top on the intramural playing field and also boasts a GPA of 3.19.

**Tulane
boasts a
GPA of
3.19**



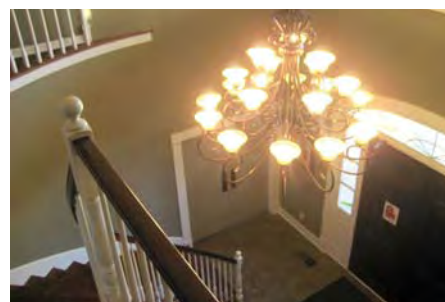
Mississippi State starts fall semester in grand style

- Mississippi State's SigEp chapter completed renovation of its on-campus house in fall 2008.
- Renovations totaling \$300,000 range from minor improvements such as replacing light fixtures to major improvements such as the repainting of every wall, replacing every door and door frame, and re-tiling the entire downstairs portion of the house.

- The overhaul included an extremely thorough cleaning of every single room, closet, stairwell and kitchen.
- As students moved back into their grand house, they saw the new chandelier hanging above the front door and encircled by the freshly stained and repainted stairwell.

- The new hardwood floor in the formal living room leads to the house mom's apartment and a carpeted and completely repainted chapter room.

- Recently revived chapter interest and the number of active members match the refurbished house's grandeur. The chapter grew from 46 men in March 2007, to 60 men a year later.



A new chandelier greets brothers as they enter their renovated house.

Drake capitalizes on Smart Board technology

By **MATT MCGUIRE**, Drake '10

The Iowa Delta chapter has seen two summers' worth of extensive house renovations, thanks in large part to an amazing alumni network and the Residential Learning Community (RLC) program. With a \$22,000 RLC grant this summer, the chapter converted its downstairs meeting room into a state-of-the-art classroom, complete with Smart Board technology.

The Smart Board functions like an overhead projector with a touch screen. It's an interactive white board connected to a laptop, and the projection is synchronized with the board, so the operator can manipulate the display directly by simply touching the screen.

Here's how the Smart Board has helped:

RLC Events: The chapter hosted a presentation called "When Murder Checks In," as part of the criminology theme for the month. They dissected a serial murder case that happened in Des Moines in the '90s with the help of two Polk County attorneys who prosecuted the case and the director of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. The Smart Board was instrumental in bringing their presentations and subsequent panel discussion to life.

Study Sessions: The Smart Board has been invaluable to underclassmen working through their toughest assignments. Drake has

a rigorous pharmacy program, and many brothers are in the same difficult classes. Every week, top junior and senior students have study sessions in the chapter room for courses like organic chemistry. They can teach the material on the Smart Board just like a professor would with a dry-erase board and bring up electronic materials like class notes.

Chapter Programming: The Smart Board allowed the chapter to have a highly efficient member voting and discussion process, thanks to displays of multiple kinds of interactive information.

To find out more about Smart Boards, go to www.smarttech.com.



Idaho taps into sweat equity for spruce-up

- For the first time, Idaho SEC has a no-alcohol residence on campus, housing 20 men.
- Over summer break, four brothers lived in the house and worked to return it to livable condition. It had been occupied by members of another fraternity while their house was under renovation, and they left the house in a deplorable state.
- Undergraduate members needed to re-paint nearly every surface in the house in order to remove graffiti.
- With an alumni base of fewer than ten, all the work was funded by undergraduates and donations from parents and friends. The furniture was also donated.
- Idaho SEC's GPA is 3.14.

**Idaho
SEC's
GPA is
3.14**



Brothers are nearly finished painting the Balanced Man symbol after carefully tracing it on the chapter room wall.



Brain food: Eat to maximize performance

By **DAN HOWELL**, North Dakota '07



Dan Howell, North Dakota '07, is a registered dietician, certified massage therapist, and certified personal trainer who owns Triple Threat Wellness in Las Vegas, Nev. Peak performance on key work or school days requires some attention to nutrition, according to Howell, above, just outside his chapter house at North Dakota.

We know that food affects our body, but how does it affect our mind? Mood, alertness and mental performance are heavily influenced by the type and amount of foods we consume. So when you need to maximize your brain capacity for an exam or big project, take a few important steps to help your performance.

The brain is a metabolically active organ, making it very hungry, very picky. Our brain measures two percent of our body's weight, yet it lays claim to 20 percent or more of the total calories our body needs. The foods we choose directly and indirectly affect mental capabilities and performances in the classroom, during exams and at work.



Your brain on sugar

Our brain's primary source of food is glucose (best found in whole grains, fruits, veggies, legumes, lentils). Yes, our brain prefers carbohydrates over all other substances.

In fact, a study published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* acknowledges that small increases in blood glucose enhance learning and memory processes in humans.

Most people have experienced the mid-morning crash or post-Thanksgiving feast coma. These feelings could be a result of low or high blood sugar. Fatigue and drowsiness are symptoms of both. Control your blood sugar through moderate consumption of carbohydrates from dairy, whole grains, beans and legumes, and plenty of fruits or vegetables. Balanced nutrition will keep you sharp and energized enabling you to stay focused on that make-or-break test, board meeting or project.

Hydration hype

Water makes up more than two-thirds of the human body. The brain itself is composed of more than 80 percent water. Dehydration can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, or difficulty focusing on the computer screen, all things to avoid on a big day!

An initial sign of dehydration is mental confusion and sleepiness. The Gatorade Sports Institute reports even as little as a two percent water loss (three pounds for a 150-pound male) can impair performance. A loss of two pounds of water (perspiration) in an average night's sleep is common.

When we sweat, water and electrolytes escape from our body. Without adequate electrolytes, you will not be as hydrated as you need to be for optimal performance. To ensure adequate hydration, find a great tasting electrolyte mix (Accelerade, Ultima Replenisher, e.g.) and add one serving to 32 ounces of water per day. Drink 64 to 96 ounces per day made up of mostly water followed by your choice of juices, teas, and coffees.

The power of Omega

Omega-3 fatty acids are crucial components of the outer membrane of brain cells. All nerve signals must pass through this fat-rich cell membrane. As learning and memory produce new connections between nerve cells, new membranes must be formed. Therefore, all brain cell membranes continuously need a fresh supply of fatty acids.

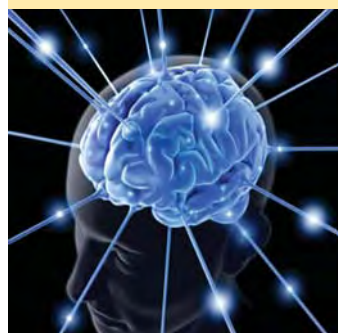
The Durham Trials found that fish oil improved behavior, concentration and learning in the classroom. Currently, the American Heart Association recommends eating fish (particularly fatty fish such as mackerel, lake trout, herring, sardines, albacore tuna, and salmon) at least twice a week. Check out the link below to view the Environmental Protection Agency recommendations on mercury and fish intake.

Read more at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/advice>

Top 10 brain foods

- Eggs
- Blueberries
- Salmon
- Flax Seed
- Avocado
- Nuts: walnuts, almonds, pecans
- Beans
- Oatmeal
- Plain yogurt
- Spinach

Properly feed your mind and body and watch your productivity and concentration grow. Pay special attention before exams or big projects so your brain can do its best.



Morning exam meal

- Steel cut or old fashioned oatmeal
- Blueberries
- Almonds or walnuts
- Two or three eggs

Afternoon board meeting meal

- Mixed green or spinach salad with your choice of veggies
- Sweet potato
- Fillet of salmon, mackerel, or herring

Snack

- Plain yogurt
- Strawberries

Stay above your all-campus average

By **RYAN MCCAIVITT**, Miami (Florida) '07
Director of Learning Communities

At the 2007 Conclave, the National Board of Directors announced the ambitious goal of bringing the all-SigEp average GPA up to 3.15 by 2011. Though it may seem daunting at first, a Fraternity average above the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse is plausible.

A key measure of SigEp's academic success is how well our chapters perform compared to their university's all-undergraduate average GPA, which is also known as the all-campus average (ACA). Out of 175 chapters¹ reporting an ACA for the spring 2008 semester, 95 were above the ACA at their respective schools. If the other 80 chapters had performed equal to their ACA instead of below it, SigEp's all-member GPA for spring 2008 would rise from a solid 3.08 to an astounding 3.12.

Evaluating your chapter GPA against the ACA is a great benchmarking tool. Chapters with GPAs that consistently outperform the average undergraduate's GPA on their campus can demonstrate that they boost the academic success of each member. Meanwhile, chapters that fall below the ACA can't show that they are truly helping members do better than the average student on that campus. They are contributing minimally or not at all to academic success.

Our chapter at Murray State realizes the benefit of outperforming their all-campus average. After three years of hovering around the ACA on its campus, Kentucky Epsilon made a giant GPA leap from a 2.84 in the fall 2005 semester to a 3.19 in spring 2006. Their jump put them well above the 2.82 ACA that semester, and they have paced their campus ever since, even beating out all of the *sororities* at Murray State in spring 2007 with a 3.35 GPA.

Murray State Alumni and Volunteer Corpo-

ration President **Chad Lampe**, '06, credits several reasons for the chapter's amazing success. The chapter set a lofty goal of reaching the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse and then raised their minimum GPA standard for membership to 3.0. Lampe thinks the most important factor was that they recruited men with high levels of academic success.



Above: Murray State Alumni gather for an event at the chapter house last spring. The AVC plays an important role in a chapter's success

Left: Tyler Kennady '12 (center), Balanced Man Scholarship overall winner with Mitch Hultman '09 (left) and Travis Taylor '11 (right), Balanced Man Scholarship Directors for Murray State's Kentucky Epsilon Chapter.

"It was an all-around effort: changing our recruitment style and message, and focusing more on the Balanced Man Scholarship," said Lampe. "Whenever you recruit people who do phenomenally well in high school, they tend to carry that on through college." The chapter also instituted a rewards-based academic incentive plan called a sliding dues scale.

Members who achieve a 3.15 GPA or above in a semester are rewarded with discounted dues in the next academic term.

While the program foregoes valuable member fees, Lampe believes that it is an inexpensive way to breed competition in

"Whenever you recruit people who do phenomenally well in high school, they tend to carry that on through college."

~ **CHAD LAMPE**, Murray State '06, AVC President

the chapter. "It's such a minuscule reward because you don't save hundreds of dollars."

After hitting a 3.15 GPA, Murray State set a new goal to have the top GPA of all Greek organizations on campus, which they achieved one year later. Now they want to hold the highest GPA of all student organizations that submit grades on the Murray State campus. According to Lampe, the chapter is constantly pushing itself to reach higher. "In its most simplistic form, you're out there to beat everybody. You want to be the best."

¹ As of November 19, 2008

Spring 2008: Top five chapters exceeding all-campus average (ACA)

CHAPTER	GPA	ACA	ABOVE ACA	RANK	MAN-POWER
Murray State	3.24	2.65	0.59	1/11	78
Toledo	3.30	2.74	0.56	1/10	71
Fresno State	3.08	2.52	0.56	1/10	51
Virginia Commonwealth SEC	3.18	2.64	0.54	2/17	29
Jacksonville State	3.00	2.56	0.44	1/7	25



Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse



Spring 2008 semester GPA is on record-breaking pace

Our chapters are on pace to break an impressive academic record set just two years ago. Out of 208 chapters reporting grades for spring 2008 by November 19, 75 chapters or 36% have achieved Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse status. The all-time Wheelhouse record was set in spring 2007 with a final count of 82 out of 236 chapter GPAs at 3.15 and above, representing 35% of all chapters reporting. Spring 2008 grades could also reach new heights in the number of chapters reporting at 3.0 and above, as well as an all-time low of chapters reporting below a 2.6. Currently, there are 119 chapters at 3.0 and above, while only nine are below a 2.6. Schools listed in red are also Intramural Champions as of December 2008 (see page 9).

Don't see your chapter listed? To be included on the Wheelhouse list, your chapter must achieve a semester GPA of 3.15 or higher. Grade reports can be verified by completing an Academic Verification Form and e-mailing it to academics@sigep.net. This form is available at www.sigep.org/documents/academic-verification.pdf.

Spring GPA for 208 Chapters reporting: **3.08**

SCHOOL NAME	CHAPTER GPA	CHAPTER RANK	MANPOWER
1. Yale	3.61	n/a	77
2. Emory	3.54	1/15	25
3. Rochester	3.52	n/a	40
4. Washington in St. Louis	3.51	2/11	90
5. Dartmouth	3.49	5/13	102
6. Georgetown	3.49	n/a	79
7. Duke	3.48	4/15	63
8. Nebraska*	3.47	3/24	119
9. American	3.46	1/10	42
10. MIT	3.45	12/27	39
11. Ohio State*	3.43	2/32	100
12. Northwestern	3.41	5/16	102
13. Stevens Tech*	3.41	1/9	58
14. Richmond*	3.40	1/6	75
15. Florida	3.39	5/26	140
16. Bucknell	3.38	6/14	87
17. Indiana	3.38	1/36	86
18. Illinois*	3.36	4/20	183
19. Washington	3.36	1/29	63
20. Maine*	3.35	1/16	54
21. Michigan	3.34	5/26	95
22. St. Mary's	3.33	1/5	33
23. UCLA	3.32	5/20	82
24. Georgia	3.32	2/26	115
25. Syracuse	3.32	2/19	59
26. Austin Peay State	3.31	1/6	46
27. Drexel	3.31	1/10	46
28. Loyola Marymount	3.30	n/a	114
29. Maryland-College Park	3.30	3/24	72
30. Miami (Florida)	3.30	3/11	90
31. Saint Louis	3.30	2/11	94
32. Texas Christian	3.30	2/10	133
33. Toledo*	3.30	1/10	71
34. Virginia	3.30	n/a	62
35. California-Berkeley	3.29	12/36	47
36. Cornell	3.29	25/46	42
37. Quinnipiac	3.28	1/2	76
38. Lawrence	3.27	3/5	28
39. Minnesota*	3.27	3/26	48
40. Oregon State*	3.26	1/24	79
41. South Dakota State	3.26	1/6	40
42. Babson	3.25	1/4	46
43. Carnegie Mellon*	3.25	3/12	81
44. Cincinnati*	3.25	1/23	93
45. Creighton	3.25	3/5	71
46. Lehigh*	3.25	1/18	71
47. Miami (Ohio)*	3.25	2/28	127
48. North Dakota*	3.25	1/12	50
49. Delaware	3.24	2/20	88
50. Murray State	3.24	1/11	78
51. Villanova	3.24	1/10	62
52. Pennsylvania	3.23	22/29	50
53. Valparaiso*	3.23	2/8	77
54. Southern Methodist*	3.22	3/9	56
55. Davidson	3.21	3/8	78
56. George Washington	3.21	5/15	92
57. Oklahoma State	3.21	n/a	78
58. Rider	3.21	1/3	29
59. Drake*	3.20	1/8	90
60. Washington and Lee	3.20	11/16	23
61. Case Western Reserve*	3.19	12/19	51
62. Clarkson	3.19	2/10	28
63. Johns Hopkins	3.19	13/22	77
64. Nebraska-Kearney	3.18	n/a	55
65. Virginia Commonwealth	3.18	2/17	29
66. Elon	3.17	2/7	85
67. New Hampshire	3.17	1/11	20
68. Central Arkansas	3.16	1/7	117
69. Kansas	3.16	4/22	102
70. Montana State	3.16	1/7	22
71. Oklahoma	3.16	4/18	202
72. San Diego State	3.16	1/16	138
73. Truman State	3.16	4/13	64
74. WPI	3.16	n/a	66
75. Texas-Austin	3.15	7/22	171

Key: 3.5 GPA Phi Beta Kappa Standard
 *Residential Learning Community
 Italics Denotes a Sigma Epsilon chapter
 07-08 SigEp Champion

Doing the math*

119 of 208 chapters reporting have a GPA above 3.00 (57%)

9 of 208 chapters reporting have a GPA below 2.60 (4%)

3.20 All-RLC Member GPA (33 chapters)

75 of 208 chapters reporting earned a 3.15 GPA or higher (36%)

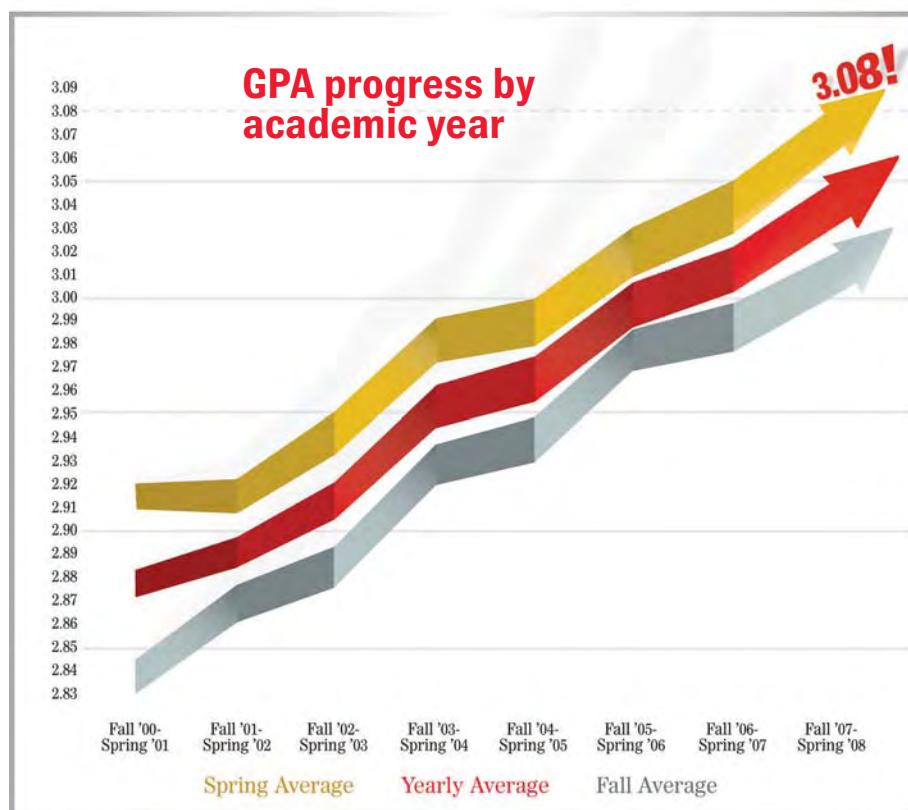
41 of 179 chapters reporting are #1 on campus (23%)

95 of 175 chapters reporting have a GPA above the All-Campus Average (54%)

3.11 All-BMP Member GPA (164 chapters)

2.98 All-Pledging Member GPA (44 chapters)

* All GPAs rounded to the nearest hundredth percent





Fifty-two chapters hold intramural champ title

As of December 2008, the following chapters reported they currently lead their respective intramural league. This mid-year ranking provides a snapshot of their early intramural success. Schools in red also have qualified for the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse for spring '08 (see page 8). These chapters have made the commitment to Sound Mind and Sound Body and our cardinal principles through their virtuous and diligent pursuit of perfection in the classroom and on the field. See your school on the list?



52

"Exercise and application produce order in our affairs, health of body, cheerfulness of mind, and these make us precious to our friends."

~ THOMAS JEFFERSON

Current Intramural Champions

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Arkansas Tech | 30. Moravian |
| 2. Baldwin-Wallace | 31. Murray State |
| 3. Barton | 32. Nebraska-Kearney |
| 4. Bradley | 33. Northwest Missouri |
| 5. Bucknell | 34. Ohio State* |
| 6. Cal State-Northridge | 35. Pennsylvania |
| 7. CalPoly-Pomona | 36. Pittsburg State |
| 8. CalPoly-SLO | 37. San Diego State |
| 9. Central Arkansas | 38. South Dakota State |
| 10. Cincinnati* | 39. Southern |
| 11. Clarkson | Mississippi |
| 12. Colorado State* | 40. St. Joseph's |
| 13. Columbia | 41. St. Mary's |
| 14. Dayton | 42. Stevens Tech* |
| 15. DePaul | 43. Texas Christian |
| 16. Drake* | 44. Texas-San Antonio |
| 17. East Tennessee State | 45. Thiel |
| 18. Elon | 46. Toledo* |
| 19. Emory | 47. Trine (formerly Tri-State) |
| 20. Evansville | 48. Villanova |
| 21. Ferris State | 49. Washington in St. Louis |
| 22. Fresno State | 50. Western Michigan |
| 23. George Washington | 51. Wichita State |
| 24. Maine* | 52. Wyoming |
| 25. Memphis* | |
| 26. Miami (Florida) | |
| 27. Minnesota* | |
| 28. Missouri State* | |
| 29. Monmouth* | |

Key: Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse chapter
*Residential Learning Community
Italics Denotes a Sigma Epsilon chapter

23 intramural champion chapters are among the 75 chapters in the Phi Beta Kappa Wheelhouse

11 Residential Learning Communities are intramural champions



Andrew Fawcett, Ohio State '11, works on his Sound Body at EDGE

What's working for IM champs at Wichita State

Wichita State's SigEp chapter participates in over a dozen sports in their intramurals competition. They've been the overall intramural champions on their campus for nine of the last 11 years. From basketball to badminton to bowling, from softball to swimming, the chapter keeps its competitive spirit fresh over time. What works for them? Chapter President **Trent Patterson, '10**, gives the *Journal* its bottom line for success.

Top three techniques

Integrate intramurals into recruitment: Include intramural practices with recruitment events during the summer.

Field teams at many levels: B-Teams and C-Teams compete in the open division of intramurals.

Start a crowd: A majority of the members attend each intramural event for support.

Keys to championship performance over time

Buddy up: New members are connected with older members in all intramural sports.

Start slow: Chapter members are encouraged to play with the B-Team to refine and enhance their skills.

Program it: Participation in intramurals is a Sigma and Phi requirement to promote the Sound Body ideal.



Intramural champs at Wichita State celebrate.

The latest thing

Instant updates: Use an online text message service to keep members updated on practices and games.

Connect winning to the wider view

Winning intramurals gives our chapter an advantage in recruiting the best men and maintaining

a strong reputation on campus. It recognizes our pursuit of the Balanced Man Ideal by excelling in the classroom *and* on the intramural field.

Fall sports review

By JAY LANGHAMMER

Below we review the outstanding accomplishments of SigEp undergraduate intercollegiate athletes in such fall sports as football, track and soccer. We encourage all chapters and alumni to send the names of athletes to journal@sigep.net for future coverage.

ARKANSAS TECH

Wide receiver Daniel McCaulley, '11, was a member of the football squad.

BALDWIN-WALLACE

Soccer midfielder Andy Synk, '10, earned All-Ohio Athletic Conference second team honors. Joining him on the squad were Jim Synk, '10 (19 starts, six points), Todd Green, '12, and Nate Hauff, '12.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Center Robert "Boomer" Cunningham, '10, started at center for the 10-2 football team and was joined by wide

receiver Brandon Kennemer, '11.

CLARKSON

Starring in goal for the soccer team was captain Mike St. Croix, '09, a Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar, who played 1,291 minutes, made 69 saves and had a 1.60 goals against average. Teammate Kevin Martens, '09, played in 15 contests as a striker.

DARTMOUTH

Three SigEps were key runners on the

cross country squad. Alex Hall, '10, finished 22nd at the Keatinge Invitational 8K (25:39.69); 28th at the Dartmouth Invitational 8K; and 40th at the Heptagonals meet. Kevin Treadway, '10, was eighth at the Keatinge meet (25:12.41); ninth at the Dartmouth meet; and 24th at the Pre-NCAA meet. Andrew Han, '09, placed 15th (25:33.61) at the Keatinge and 21st at the Dartmouth meet.

DAYTON

Matt Swartz, '09, who had been the football team's regular kicker and punter in 2007, missed the season due to an off-season knee injury.

DELAWARE

Offensive tackle Chris Hyncik, '10, saw action for the football team. Cross country runner Richie Pisan, '12, had a best finish of 16th (27:02.32) at the Blue Hen Classic and placed 44th (26:52) at the Colonial Athletic Association meet. West Chester head football coach Bill Zwaan, Delaware '76, led his team to a 9-4 record and the NCAA Division III playoffs.

DENISON

Defensive end Drew Hanna, '10, posted 33 tackles and defensive back Will

Doss, '10, played in nine games for the 6-4 squad of head coach Nick Fletcher, Johns Hopkins '76. Seeing action for the soccer team were midfielder Greg Conner, '11, and defenseman Ben Sopp, '10.

DRAKE

Offensive Lineman Andrew Keller, '11, was a member of the 6-4 football squad.

EASTERN ILLINOIS

Named to *ESPN the Magazine's* Academic All-American third team was soccer standout Adam Gartner, '09, who also gained All-Missouri Valley Conference honorable mention. He was one of 10 finalists for the national Lowe's Senior CLASS Award and scored seven points (two goals, three assists).

ILLINOIS TECH

Daniel Votipka, '10, saw action as a defenseman for the 13-3 soccer squad.

KANSAS

Seeing action at defensive end for the 7-5 bowl-bound Jayhawks football squad was Richard Alspaugh, '09.

LAMBUTH

Playing for the NAIA playoff football team were offensive lineman Bobby Ingalls, '11, and wide receiver Adam Marshall, '10. Leading the cross country team were Andrew Bonell, '09 (sixth at the Lambuth Invitational, 12th at the Union Invitational), Thayne Wright, '11 (seventh at the Lambuth meet), and Nathan McKellips, '11.

LAWRENCE

The soccer squad featured Nico Walker, '10 (who started every game), T.J. Frett, '10, and Bradley Camp, '10. Chris Rollins, '10, ran on the cross country squad.

MIT

Cross country runner Jack Bourbonnais, '10, earned All-NEWMAC honors with an 11th place conference finish (26:19.11), placed 17th at the Plansky Invitational and gained fall all-conference academic selection, along with teammate Kevin Kleinguetl, '11. Seeing action for the football team was



Defensive end Les Hammers, Truman State '09, right.

running back Adam Hartz, '11.

MIAMI (OHIO)

Having another solid season for the cross country team was Kevin Silver, '09, who placed second (24:36.6) at the Mid-American Conference 8K meet. He also ran a time of 24:34.9 at the NCAA Pre-National meet.

MISSOURI S&T

Thirteen SigEps were on the 7-4 football team. All-Great Lakes Conference first team tight end Bryan Crider, '09, was second with 53 receptions for 549 yards and five touchdowns. Named to the All-Great Lakes first team and the District VII All-Academic team was offensive guard John Krumme, '10. Also playing were wide receiver Cameron Williams, '11, and linebackers Ashley Jordan, '11 (14 tackles), and Nathan Stodghill, '11 (12 tackles).

MONMOUTH

Earning All-Midwest Conference second team soccer honors were goalie Owen Robinson, '10 (127 saves, 2.30 goals against average), and Joe Howell, '11 (top scorer with eight points). Other soccer players were Lucas Knox, '10 (five points), Adam Buol, '11, and Josh Del Valle, '12.



SCHOLAR ATHLETE FOCUS

Swimmer keeps grades and stroke on course

By BRIAN SHAWN, North Dakota '02

You would think **Brendan Jones, Massachusetts '10**, would be just trying to keep his head above water with all of his activities. Jones has an impressive 3.91 GPA in chemical engineering, despite the demands of competing as a Division I swimmer at the University of Massachusetts. "It's not the easiest thing I've ever done. It involves a lot of good time management, especially around exam time or when I'm away from campus for meets," Jones says. "Academics always takes first priority, but I find it is necessary to have a physical and social outlet to be able to keep focused on academics."

Jones joined Sigma Phi Epsilon in the spring semester of his freshman year after several members from the chapter were recruiting in his dorm. "I liked the guys I met and could tell the Fraternity was headed in a great direction," Jones added.

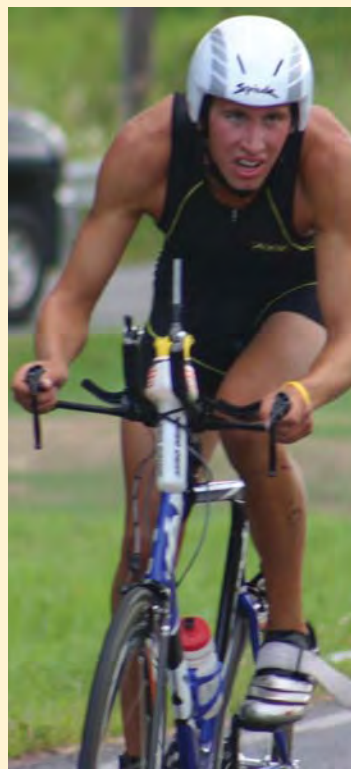
Swimming got a big boost this past summer when American Michael Phelps won a record eight gold medals at the Olympic Games in Beijing. The sport typically has a lower priority for the NCAA because it doesn't produce as much revenue as football or basketball. But Jones hopes "what Michael Phelps and some of the other great American swimmers did at the past Olympics will increase the awareness of NCAA swimming," he said. "But without the continued media exposure the sport won't grow largely popular outside of the swimming world."

Jones doesn't swim in the familiar short distance races seen on the TV coverage of the Olympic Games. Instead he competes in the distance events, such as his favorite, the 1,650-yard freestyle. It's 66 laps in the pool and the distance is approximately one mile. "It's a kind of love-hate relationship," Jones adds. "There is some degree of planning that goes into events of this length in terms of when to attack or push the pace. Because of its length, it requires a mental approach that a lot of the other events don't need."

Not only does Jones compete as a Division I swimmer, but in the summers he participates in triathlons. He started after his freshman year of college when his coach persuaded him to try it. He has won his age group in numerous races and placed

in the top 10 overall in most of them. In 2007, Jones was honored as a USAT (USA Triathlon) All American, meaning he was one of the top 19-year olds in the country. In order to continue training at the school, Jones, along with several other students, formed the UMass Triathlon club in the spring of 2008. They have weekly practices and plan to compete in races as a team in the upcoming spring and fall semesters.

After graduation, Jones is considering medical school or getting an M.B.A. But for now, he's got plenty of other things to keep him busy.



Top: Brendan Jones, Massachusetts '10, competed in the FIRRM Half-marathon (1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike, 13.1 mile run) held in Narragansett, R.I. on September 21, 2008. Jones, left, placed 7th overall and had the fastest swim split. His overall time was 4:31.16.

Left: Jones on the cycling leg of the Wilkes-Barre Olympic Distance Triathlon (1.5km swim, 40km bike, 11km run), held in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., on August 3, 2008. Jones placed 5th overall, won his 20-24-year-old age group with the second-fastest swim split. His overall time was 2:14.03.



Justin Wells, Worcester Tech '09

MORAVIAN

Seven SigEps saw action for the Division III football playoff team. Andrew Grando, '10, was on the All-Centennial Conference second team and joined on the starting offensive line by Daniel Cancelliere, '11. Running back Ryan Rempe, '10, started the last half of the season and rushed for 541 yards and five scores. Against Muhlenberg, he had 180 yards and four TDs on 41 carries. Linebacker Michael Crann, '11, was named to the Centen-

nial Fall Academic Honor Roll. Other key players were defensive back Kyle Krupa, '10, and running backs Ricky Allen, '11, and Anthony Falco, '10. The top soccer scorer was forward Louis Dollarton, '09, who had 14 points (five goals, four assists) and was on the All-Landmark Conference second team. John McCullough, '09, ran in several cross country meets.

MOREHEAD STATE

Major league pitcher Jon Rauch,

Morehead State '00, was traded by the Washington Nationals to the Arizona Diamondbacks at mid-season and was re-signed for 2009. He pitched in 74 games with 18 saves and a 4.45 earned run average.

MURRAY STATE

Handling deep snaps for the football team was Carl "Trey" Jurgens, '11.

NEBRASKA

Aiding the 8-4 bowl-bound Cornhuskers' football squad again was kick holder Jake Wesch, '09, who also had five punts for a 40.2 average.

OHIO WESLEYAN

Center Jimmy Willison, '11, played 10 games for the football team and was joined by running back Brian Zelanko, '11. Cross country runner Clay Davis, '10, placed 10th

at the Gettysburg Invitational, 13th (26:15) at the North Coast Athletic Conference meet, and 54th at the NCAA Division III regional meet.

OREGON

A key linebacker again for the 9-3 bowl-bound Ducks football team was John Bacon, '09, who was in on 18 tackles.

OREGON STATE

Safety Austin Hall, '09, was a solid special teams player again for the 8-4 bowl-bound OSU football team.

PENNSYLVANIA

Sprint football team tight end Marten Basta, '09, was named to the All-CSFL first team after catching 30 passes for 341 yards and four touchdowns. Playing on the offensive line was teammate Ben Eisenstat, '10.

RICHMOND

Boston Red Sox first baseman Sean Casey, Richmond '96, batted

.322 in 69 games, upping his career average to .302 over 1,405 games.

ST. MARY'S OF TEXAS

Seeing action on the soccer team were goalie Jayson Horn, '09, defenseman Matthew Turner, '09, and midfielder Patrick Gavin, '10.

STEVENS TECH

Steven Chick, '11, led a group of five SigEps on the cross country squad. He placed second in the Stevens Tech 8K Invitational and was 40th at the Empire meet. Other competitors were Mohamed Abuouf, '11, Kevin Morgera, '10, Michael Pawalowski, '11, and Kevin Sampson, '11.

TEXAS

Former Longhorns All-American full-back Steve Worster, Texas '71, was recently inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco, Texas.

Kyle Talbot, Truman State '11



THIEL

Seeing action for the football squad were back Cody Sirgey, '11, and fullback Mike Prystaloski, '11. Starting 11 contests for the soccer team was defenseman Stephen Wise, '11.

TRINE (FORMERLY TRI-STATE)

Eight SigEps won All-Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors for the 10-1 Division III playoff football squad. Named to the All-MIAA first team were running back Mikael Glidden, '09 (seven TDs), offensive lineman James Greenlee, '11, and defensive back Corrie Latta, '09 (41 tackles). All-MIAA second teamers were punter Nathaniel Fitzsimmons, '09 (48 for a 40.5 average), lineman Mike Fowler, '09, receiver Sam Hartman, '09 (17 catches for 224 yards), linebacker Joe Curtis, '09 (44 tackles), and lineman Chris Eichman, '11 (30 stops). Running back Jeff Langley, '11, led with 496 rushing yards and lineman Dan Chase, '09, had 10 tackles.

TRUMAN STATE

Earning All-Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association football honors was defensive end Les Hammers, '09, who had 71 tackles, including 15 for losses and nine sacks.

Also playing were offensive linemen Mike Devine, '09, and Aaron Tjarks, '11. Ten SigEps on the soccer team were led by goalie Kyle Talbot, '11, who played 1,619 minutes, made 52 saves and posted a 1.11 goals against average. Second in scoring with nine points was Dan Meagher, '11, and Nick Cepicky, '09, had seven points. Other regulars were Nick Zarkadis, '09, Jack Randazzo, '10, Dan Russell, '10, and Scott Biggerstaff, '11.

VALPARAISO

Seeing defensive action for the football team were linebacker Marco Porcelli, '10 (12 tackles), and back Adrian Gober, '12. Joel Mathwig, '10, was on the cross country squad.

WESTERN MICHIGAN

Kicker Brooks Bunbury, '11, was a member of the 8-4 football squad led by head coach Bill Cubit, Delaware '75.

WESTMINSTER

Gaining All-Presidents Athletic Conference honorable mention was defensive end Matt Jaworski, '09, who was third with 55 tackles, including 11 for losses. Offensive lineman Shawn Zentko '11, started four contests.



SCHOLAR ATHLETE FOCUS

SigEp leads soccer team to conference title

By BRIAN RAPIEN, Cincinnati '10

Daniel Votipka, IIT '10, has spent his whole life in the game of soccer, but really became involved after playing club in England for three years. As a defender for the IIT Scarlet Hawks, Votipka acknowledges he is in the midst of one of the greatest moments of his career. "We just won our regular season conference title after going undefeated and we are going into the finals for the conference tournament," he said.

Votipka joined SigEp because he really enjoyed the atmosphere and the quality of the guys in the chapter. He observed that SigEp has helped him expand his horizons beyond soccer to help him grow as a person. Votipka is the director of a philanthropy organization, Up 'til Dawn, for his chapter, an organization that unites college students in the battle against childhood cancer.

Votipka is a computer science major and proves that he doesn't have much of an issue balancing his academics with soccer by scoring a 4.0 GPA. "Basically it takes a lot of prioritizing," he says, "but it's the same thing for any extracurricular activity." Votipka hopes to use his degree along with a specialization in information security to become a commissioned officer and help combat cyber warfare in the U.S. Air Force after graduation.

As for his last year IIT, the Scarlet Hawks will prove to be a force again in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference with possibly their entire team returning. "I plan to continue with it and see where it takes me," Votipka says, "I really enjoy just getting out there and playing. I can't imagine not playing soccer, and I'm lucky I can play at this level."



Votipka balances academics and soccer and maintains a 4.0 GPA, and directs cancer fundraiser "Up 'til Dawn" for his chapter.

WASHINGTON IN ST. LOUIS

Leading the football team's offensive line was All-University Athletic Association first team guard Nate Frogge, '09, who started every game. Also on the squad

were linebacker Young Hu, '10 (five starts), and wide receiver Chris deBettencourt, '11. Starting 15 contests for the 12-5-1 soccer squad was midfielder David Klein, '11.

WISCONSIN

Defensive lineman Kenny Jones, '10, was a member of the 7-5 bowl-bound Badgers football squad for the third year.

WORCESTER TECH

Thirty-one SigEps led the football squad. On offense, tri-captain/quarterback Justin Wells, '09, completed 160 of 273 attempts for 2,030 yards, 10 TDs and led in rushing with 424 yards and 10



Mike St. Croix, Clarkson '09

scores. He was named to the All-Worcester Area Football Association second team and gained All-Liberty League honorable mention. Seeing

offensive line duty were All-Worcester first team and All-Liberty second team center Justin Pollard, '10, Bobby Evers, '09, Ryan Miller, '11, Thomas Izzo, '11, and

Matt Weisman, '11. Other good players on offense were backs Scott Guzman, '09, and Myles Walsh, '10, plus wide receiver David Parry, '09. WPI tri-captain/

safety Adam Sides, '09, was Worcester Area Co-Defensive Player of the Year and an All-Liberty League first teamer. He was second with 76 tackles and broke

up nine passes. Linebacker Michael Toto, '09, who had 48 tackles, was on the Liberty All-Academic team and gained All-Liberty mention. Other key linebackers were leading tackler Stefan Nicotra (89 tackles), '09, Michael Oliveri, '11 (62 tackles), and tri-captain Matt Boudreau, '09, who had 15 tackles in the first game before being injured. Key defensive linemen were All-Liberty second teamer Erik Pichette, '09 (34 tackles), and Hal Reader, '11 (29 tackles). Back Jonathan Shoemaker, '09, had 26 stops and was on

"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."

~ VINCE LOMBARDI

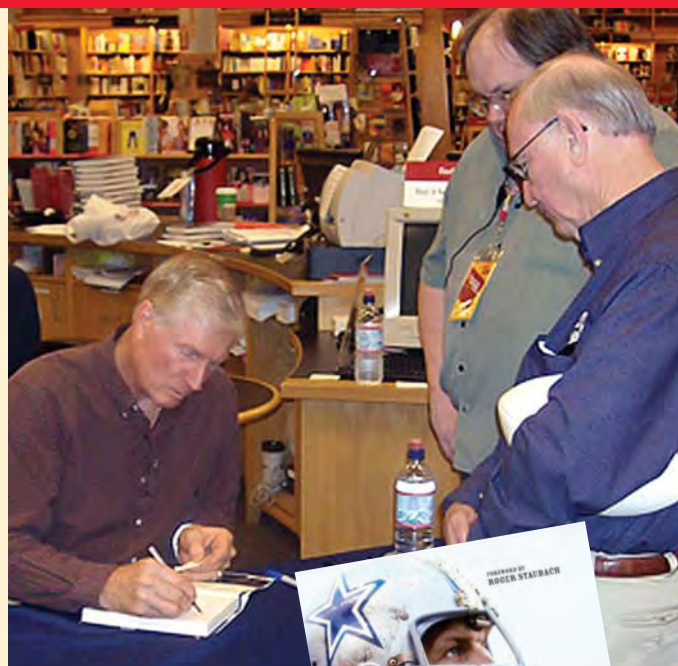
the All-District Academic team. Other key backs were Justin Deveau, '10 (21 tackles), Jordan Belliveau, '10, and Todd LeClerc, '10.

Dallas Cowboys player and SigEp Bob Lilly publishes autobiography

One of Sigma Phi Epsilon's greatest athletes, **Bob Lilly, Texas Christian '61**, recently wrote his autobiography, *A Cowboy's Life*, published by Triumph Books. He is one of only two SigEps in both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame, along with **Doug Atkins, Tennessee '53**. A two-time All-American defensive lineman at Texas Christian, Lilly had a great 14-year career with the Dallas Cowboys, was named All-NFL seven times and played in 11 Pro Bowls. When he retired in 1975, he became the first player named to the Cowboys Ring of Honor and, five years later, was the team's first inductee into the Pro Hall of Fame.

Lilly's book traces his journey from poverty in Throckmorton, Texas, through his rise to fame as Mr. Cowboy. He discusses many of his teammates and covers the team's fortunes year by year, offering interesting and amusing anecdotes. Written in collaboration with Dr. Kristine Clark, *A Cowboy's Life* gives insight into the life of a legend, both on and off the field, as an avid photographer. Many photos taken during his playing career are featured in the book.

Lilly recently held book signings for Borders Books in Fort Worth and Dallas. At the first signing in Fort Worth in November, Lilly was greeted by more than 250 fans, some of whom stood in line for hours. He shook hands with everyone, including several former Texas Christian teammates, and posed for photos. Waiting in line to see his chapter brother was **Billy Butner, Texas Christian '59**, who bought two books and asked Lilly to sign one for the SigEp chapter at Texas Christian. Lilly said he had heard the chapter was doing very well on campus, and Butner later presented the inscribed book at a Texas Gamma chapter meeting.



Bob Lilly, Texas Christian '61, signs two books for former chapter mate Billy Butner, '59 (holding a football). Butner presented one of the inscribed books to the Texas Gamma chapter.

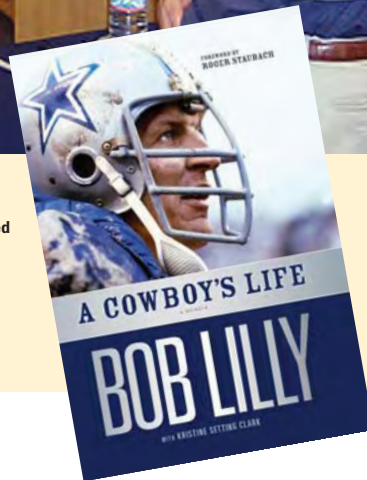


PHOTO BY LAURA SEEWESTER, PEGASUSNEWS.COM

Leave your mark at Conclave Orlando 2009: Educate, Legislate, Celebrate



By **JACE THOMPSON**,
Texas Christian '08
Student member,
National Board of
Directors

As SigEps we have much to celebrate. We continue to raise the bar by being the best Fraternity in the world. Conclave, where the Grand Chapter convenes to legislate, is our biennial celebration of the Fraternity's accomplishments, local chapter milestones, and individuals who have exhibited Balanced Man Ideals. While celebrating successes, Conclave is a great place to network with national and local volunteers, district governors, and Educational Foundation donors. Those who hold SigEp to a higher standard and drive our Fraternity forward rarely miss a Conclave. They know Conclave is where undergraduates are inspired, volunteers enabled, and alumni reunited.

Conclave 2009, in Orlando, Fla., celebrates those of you who "Leave Your Mark." It will be the 50th anniversary of the SigEp undergraduate delegation abolishing membership restrictions. SigEp is a Fraternity of firsts and is propelled by the legacy our fellow brothers left to us. Create a legacy and leave your mark by attending the world's largest and best fraternity convention, where you can start your legacy through the legislation drafted, the future leadership elected, and the momentum to excel that you bring back to your chapter.

Orlando highlights

This year's venue will be the best in many years. The Rosen Shingle Creek resort, ranked one of the best in the nation, has an atmosphere that is distinctly SigEp. The resort offers top-notch meeting facilities, a state-of-the-art fitness center, four outdoor swimming pools, a full-service spa, and numerous recreational facilities and activities. The Spanish-inspired architecture is set on 230 acres of natural grounds. Conclave 2009 is one you cannot afford to miss.



The Balanced Man Celebration, where Buchanan Cups are bestowed, is easily a highlight for many and will begin at Hard Rock Live in the center of Universal City Walk. The celebration continues at the Walk throughout the night until you hop a shuttle back to the resort.

Throughout the convention, compete for the national championship in the SigEp 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Immerse yourself in leadership training and best practice seminars.

Catch up and reconnect

Conclave was a highlight of my undergraduate years, and its amazing programming inspired me to know more about SigEp. I left Conclave with a desire to meet more alumni who have been involved with SigEp longer than I have been alive, to seek out opportunities to improve my chapter and to give back to SigEp.

I cannot wait to reunite with my brothers who I met at Leadership Continuum events. Whether it is the regional, Ruck, or Tragos reception, it's a great feeling to catch up with close friends.

Go and help others go

I encourage our alumni and volunteers to motivate their undergraduates to attend. Help undergraduate brothers by offering full or half sponsorships. Increase attendance at Conclave and you give more undergraduates an opportunity to have the SigEp experience *en masse*. When a chapter brings a big contingent, say 10 or more brothers, to Conclave, they get exponentially more out of it. Undergraduates leave motivated and inspired to continue to improve the fraternal bonds we all share.

SigEp is about Building Balanced Leaders for the World's Communities. Conclave is where everything falls into place to celebrate your chapter's successes and SigEp's collective successes. Join me, the entire undergraduate delegation, key alumni, volunteers, staff and great speakers as we celebrate, learn and reunite, at Conclave 2009 in Orlando, Fla.

Ready to register?

You can register online to reserve your spot at Conclave. Go to www.sigepconclave.com and click on the "Register" tab. Registration takes only a few minutes. You can get the SigEp discount rate at Rosen Shingle Creek Resort by making your reservation through the Conclave website.

Leave your mark.

AUGUST 12 - 16, 2009
ORLANDO
SIGEP
CONCLAVE

Chapter News

The politics of progress: Three interns among many to converge on Washington

By **IAN NICHOLSON**, Oregon State '09

Three SigEps from across the U.S. observed the Congressional process first hand, designed a leadership development program for government managers and networked with prospective employers.

These highlights came out of 2008 summer internship experiences for three brothers who converged on Washington, D.C. The George Washington Chapter opened its doors to about 20 visiting SigEps who had similar career aspirations and provided a truly memorable experience. According to **Sean Joyce**, North Carolina-Greensboro '09, "participating in

an internship was further enhanced by living with SigEps from around the country at the D.C. Alpha house. We could talk about our short- and long-term goals, and we found ourselves relating them back to our cardinal principles: Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love. Everyone felt welcome, as if we had been friends all along."

Ian Nicholson, Oregon State '09, completed a congressional internship with U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and saw the political process up close in Washington. The political science major submitted briefing memos on pertinent foreign relations

issues and drafted preliminary white papers. "I got key insight to the inner workings of Congress," Nicholson said.

Joyce was also involved in Congress as an intern with the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He reviewed witness testimonies for committee hearings and prepared opening statements and questions for congressional members on the committee, all while getting up to speed on national transportation needs. Joyce notes that "taking part in an internship is not only a learning experience, but the networking that comes out of it is incalculable. My advice to brothers interested in participating in an internship would be to pursue it to their fullest ability."

Brett Bloemer, Louisiana State '09, worked in human resources at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, primarily focused on the strategic management of the organization. He helped design a leadership development program for commission managers and developed an auditing tracking system. Bloemer

declared it "by far the best summer I have had, and I would strongly encourage any SigEp to take this opportunity and meet other brothers from around the nation."

Adds Nicholson, "I am more aware of the options available to me in my field of interest. I hope to translate my experiences and developed skills back to my chapter and to my university."

While the core benefit from the summer was the meaningful work experience, these brothers made time for fun. Weekend destinations included beaches, parks, rivers, and the famous museums and monuments in the District.

Back at their campuses, these interns can utilize their new skills. "Seeing what it takes to manage an organization from the top has enabled me to better assess the issues that our chapter faces," said Bloemer. The leadership cycle continues as these SigEps learn leadership skills through their chapters that they can take into the work world, and then they bring their real world leadership experience back to their chapters.



From left: Ian Nicholson, Oregon State '09, Sean Joyce, North Carolina-Greensboro '09, Brett Bloemer, Louisiana State '09, and John Briney, Richmond '09, converged on Washington, D.C., to serve in government and corporate internships. Over 20 interning SigEps stayed at the George Washington chapter house this past summer.

Texas welcomes two Renaissance brothers

By **JUSTIN KLEIDERER**, Texas '09

Over the past year, Texas has been pleased to welcome two new Renaissance brothers. Last spring, Texas Alpha initiated **Leif Johnson**, Renaissance, son of the late **Curt Johnson**, Texas '78, two-time state rush captain and devoted alumnus who passed away at an early age due to heart complications. Leif attended Baylor, where he did not join a fraternity and now works for Hill Partners in Austin, Texas. Through the influence and leadership of **Jerry Smith Jr.**, Texas '79, the Texas Alpha chapter initiated Leif just prior to the dedication of the new courtyard in honor of his father. Leif considered it an amazing experience and he looks forward to being a part of the Sigma Phi Epsilon community.



Renaissance Brother Michael Williams

This fall, the chapter welcomed **Michael Williams**, Renaissance, the chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas, the state's oldest regulatory commission, as the newest Renaissance brother. Williams attended Southern California where he earned his bachelor's, master's and law degrees and also ran track during his undergrad years. Chairman Williams is also Chairman of the Governor's Competitiveness Council and Clean Coal Technology Council. With much help from former Grand Chapter President **Gary Griffith**, Texas '70, Williams was initiated before Texas Alpha members and alumni at the national alumni reunion in Dallas and was introduced as their newest brother during the event proceedings.

The chapter is grateful that these honorable men have accepted the responsibility of a lifetime of brotherhood with SigEp.

Hearts still burning: Ohio State celebrates centennial

By **ZACH GERMANIUK**, Ohio State '09

Ohio State's Centennial Weekend in October brought together alumni and their families, current undergraduates, and distinguished guests at Ohio Gamma, one of SigEp's Residential Learning Communities. The once-in-a-lifetime event rested primarily on the shoulders of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation. **John C. Waggoner, '69**, **Bob Barnett, '71**, and **Mike Lockwood, '66**, organized almost forty alumni who worked for nearly two years rounding up old friends, finding lost addresses, and preparing for a new century of brotherhood together.

Brothers Waggoner and Lockwood used donations of memorabilia to set up an Ohio Gamma museum in the chapter house formal room, and the display included the only known photograph of Ohio Gamma's founding fathers taken in 1908. Grand Chapter President **Stephen Shanklin, Murray State '70**, toured the house accompanied by District Governor **Marcus Robinson, Dayton '99**, and Regional Director **James Oliver, James Madison '08**. The pre-gala activities included a golf outing and a special ceremony organized by Chapter President **Sean Mittelman, '09**, and alumni. Based on the Senior Reaffirmation Ceremony found in the Public Rituals of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Mittelman created a variation, which he named the Alumni Reaffirmation



Ohio State's 100th anniversary was ushered in by a proud crowd of undergraduates, alumni and honored guests.

Ceremony, to dedicate to the alumni as the chapter approached the evening of the gala.

A packed hotel ballroom lit with flashes from professional photographers' cameras greeted undergraduate brothers as they arrived at the gala to see an exuberant crowd of dozens of alumni. Auspicious guests of honor included Past Grand Presidents **John Hartman, Missouri-Columbia '61**, **Archer L. Yeatts, Richmond '64**, and Ohio State Vice President of Student Affairs **Richard Hollingsworth**. The gala was the perfect opportunity to cultivate the bond between Ohio Gamma's undergraduates and alumni. Brothers who were not even born when some of their alumni brothers graduated

from college dined together and traded stories and photographs. To sustain the lighthearted mood, undergraduates and alumni held a sing-a-long through the buffet line, keeping spirits high with the Fraternity's songs.

While the Centennial is an impressive milestone, it also serves as a reminder that life is constantly in motion. The Centennial was an opportunity to pause and remember our past century of achievement and the men who made it happen. At the same time, we focus on the new goals the chapter can achieve in the coming century and the caliber of man who will lead us there.

SigEps at Western Kentucky visit St. Jude, connect with their cause

By **TOM BAUDENDISTEL**, Cincinnati '11

"Fight the Yawn—stay awake to cure childhood cancer" is the motto for the student-run philanthropy *Up 'til Dawn*, a national fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and its battle against childhood cancer. *Up 'til Dawn* brings together students, faculty, staff and surrounding communities to raise money to help prevent and cure childhood cancer. At the end

of the program, campuses host an all-night event and literally stay awake overnight. They give up a night of sleep in order to celebrate efforts to help cure cancer and commemorate children who fight an uphill battle against the disease.

Last year alone, Western Kentucky University raised more than \$119,000 for St. Jude. Recently, a group of brothers

took a trip to the hospital to better understand what they do and how the money raised would benefit the children in the program. The students ate lunch with several patients and toured the hospital. They saw the Target House where families of the children stay during treatment. After leaving the hospital, the brothers discussed how childhood cancer touches

almost everyone. **Cory Gearlds, '11**, reminisced, "We realized that the kids who ate lunch with us or followed us on the tour could have been us or our siblings."

They were determined to do all that they could to help. Visiting the hospital inspired them to increase their fundraising efforts for St. Jude. Each brother was required to write 15 fundraising letters, but many of



From left: Western Kentucky brothers Kevin Payne, '11, Michael Elder, '11, Bradley Venable, '10, Cory Gearlds, '10, Isaiah Staten, '12 and Kyle Rindfleisch, '06 (Alumni Board President), hit the road to see for themselves the life-saving work at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The university is aiming for \$150,000 in next year's fundraising efforts, and SigEp will be there.

them wrote over 50 letters to help the children.

This year thousands of students are expected to participate in the university's goal of raising over \$150,000 to further

the life-saving work of St. Jude. Over 30 Kentucky Delta SigEps participated in the letter writing campaign, and three SigEps are on the executive board of the program.

Tragos Quest to Greece Journey connects collegians with classical thinking

By KEVIN TEETS, Tennessee-Martin '06

Last July, as the world prepared for the Beijing Olympics, 16 men crouched atop the grooved starting line in Olympia traditionally reserved for the greatest athletes in Greece. Their shorts and sneakers distinguished them from the nude, barefoot runners of antiquity. I snapped photos as they dashed past me in a footrace resembling those of the first Olympics. They were not racing to represent the Greek city states. They were on a sojourn to understand the foundation of the Balanced Man Ideal, Sound Mind and Sound Body, as part of the Tragos Quest to Greece.

The journey began in a Chicago airport where nearly all of the 16 scholars, four mentors (including me), and two faculty members first met in person. Online introductions had preceded group discussions about

Fast Facts on Tragos Quest to Greece:

Established in: 2001
Total participants since inception: 109
Targeted participants for 2010: 16
Requirements for selection: All undergraduates can apply

two of the required novels, *The Naked Olympics*, by Tony Perrottet and *Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea*, by Thomas Cahill. Scholars also read famous works such as *The Odyssey*, *Electra*, *The Bacchae*, and *Socrates' Defense* to prepare for the trip.

When the group touched down in Athens, Professor

Michael Lippman, Renaissance, who had studied in Greece, was eager to give everyone a brief tour of the city. He and Leadership Continuum Director Travis Swanson, Kansas State '06, explained that the next week would involve touring sites in the cities of Eleusis, Corinth, Epidauros, Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi, Thermopylae, and then a return to Athens to see world landmarks such as the Agora and the Parthenon.

The other faculty member, Laura Lippman, provided a new component to the Quest. She assigned each person readings that they would perform at specific sites throughout the week and helped them prepare for these readings to the rest of the group.

"The on-site performances really helped me get a better grasp of the readings," says Trent Patterson, Wichita State '10. He performed the character Agamemnon in the Cistern at Mycenae. He says that his favorite performance, however, was the one by scholar Joshua Hamilton, San Diego '10, who was acting as a messenger in the play, *The Bacchae*. "The reading that Josh did in the cave was awesome, and it made me feel like I was actually in the story," Patterson said.

After each day of touring, the group took part in two nightly discussions. The first, led by the faculty members, covered the day's readings and site visits. The second mentor-led discussion centered on SigEp. For Scholar Michael St. Croix, Clarkson '09, these

"The Greek mentality of critically thinking things through from all aspects and questioning them is something that I now look at as very important."

~ DAN HAVERKAMP
Cincinnati '11

discussions were vital to the learning. "The afternoon discussions set our group apart from a tourist trip. I feel like sitting in a candid setting and speaking your mind is part of what brotherhood is about. Sometimes we argued, sometimes we agreed, but we always were able to get somewhere better than when we started," St. Croix explained.

The faculty and mentors proved extremely valuable in these discussions as well. "The faculty, especially Mike Lippman, loved to play devil's advocate and would challenge the group intellectually and emotionally, pushing us outside our comfort zone," said Matthew Breen, Georgetown '10. "To the distress of many of the brothers on the trip, he would refuse to paint a black and white picture, instead challenging us to draw our own conclusions from the grey area of esoteric ideals we were discussing," Breen said.

The scholars and mentors describe the Quest to Greece as a once-in-a-lifetime experience where they can connect to the teachings of ancient Greece in a new way. Scholar Dan Haverkamp, Cincinnati '11, said that it has changed his way of analyzing. "The Greek mentality of critically thinking things through from all aspects and questioning them is something that I now look at as very important," he said.

Scholars on the trip also learned of the Greeks' desire for greatness and excellence in all. The evening discussions tied this pursuit to the Fraternity's principles—especially Diligence. Joshua Hamilton shared a personal testament to diligence. This was not his first trip to Greece.

In 2004, Hamilton went to Greece as part of a mission serving food, teaching English and



"The afternoon discussions set our group apart from a tourist trip. I feel like sitting in a candid setting and speaking your mind is part of what brotherhood is about. Sometimes we argued, sometimes we agreed, but we always were able to get somewhere better than when we started."

~ MICHAEL ST. CROIX, Clarkson '09

2008 Tragos Quest to Greece Scholars

Matt Atkins, Oklahoma State '09
Matthew Breen, Georgetown '10
Nicholas Calvo, California-Santa Barbara '09
William Dorsch, Wisconsin '09
Cory Gearlds, Western Kentucky '11
Joshua Hamilton, San Diego '10
Daniel Haverkamp, Cincinnati '11
Zack Krause, Minnesota '10
Peter Movilla, Stevens Tech '10
Colin O'Dell, Rhode Island '10
Trent Patterson, Wichita State '10
Stilianos Plakas, Pennsylvania '07
Jason Singer, Washington in St. Louis '10
Michael St. Croix, Clarkson '09
Nick Umosella, Pennsylvania State '10
Carl Williams, Mississippi State '09



Scholar Cory Gearlds, Western Kentucky '11, presents his reading at the Upper Delphi site to others on the Quest. His reading, "Teiresias" in Sophocles' *Oedipus The King*, is designed to help participants deepen their understanding of classical thought in the surroundings where these great ideas originated.

building homes. Shortly after his arrival, he collapsed and was taken to the emergency room. He flew home to San Diego, and doctors eventually discovered that he had contracted the West Nile virus. He spent weeks in the hospital and faced years of recovery. "I lost control of my hands, fingers, facial expressions, and my voice," Hamilton said. "I was lucky to live. It was the most frightening and disappointing period of my life."

After earning a slot on the Quest trip, Hamilton realized he would have another chance to redefine this place in his life. "When I stepped off the bus in Athens, emotions and memories filled my soul. It was at that moment that I understood the sacrifice and reward of diligence. On the Tragos Quest to Greece, I found my way back to a place that I will always remember as a symbol of diligence," Hamilton said.

Southern California Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet creates momentum for chapter

By JASON LUBIN, Southern California '09



Balanced Man Scholarship winner Ben Gallant, Southern California '12, is surrounded by (from left) Regional Director Jason McGill, Vanderbilt '08, AVC President Shawn Sedlacek, Southern California, '93, Educational Foundation President Garry Kief, Southern California '70, Southern California Law School Dean and Educational Foundation Trustee Scott Bice, Southern California '65, and District Governor Dave Calderon, CalPoly-Pomona '88.

SigEp at Southern California sought to differentiate itself from the rest of the Greek community at its first Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet in August at the Town and Gown banquet hall on Southern California's main campus. Over 100 undergraduate brothers, finalists, alumni and parents decked out in formal attire participated in the event. After a short welcome by Chapter President Idris Jatoui '09, Vice President of Recruitment Jason Lubin, '09, who planned the event, spoke about the benefits of joining SigEp at Southern California. The keynote speaker and California Beta alumnus, Zack Estrin, '93, is the executive producer of the hit television show *Prison Break*.

After the meal, the chapter awarded \$11,000 in scholarships and gave Dan O'Brien '92, the Alum of the Year Award. Seven \$1,000 Balanced Man Scholarships were bestowed and \$4,000 was awarded to current brothers of the house. The banquet was capped off with closing remarks from Educational Foundation President and Chapter Alumnus Garry Kief, '70.

"This was a great event for our chapter to put on," said Rush Chair Ian Coe '11, "Everyone was super impressed from the scholarship finalists to the brothers." Southern California Greek Advisor Beth

Saul exclaimed to many in attendance, "This is the best Greek event I have ever been to, and I've been the Greek advisor at USC for 30 years." The banquet has been a major factor in improving momentum at California Beta this semester. Several alumni have joined the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation and become involved in the chapter due to their attendance, and five scholarship finalists pledged the chapter.

"We plan on improving that number for next semester. So far, an additional 10 finalists have expressed interest in joining our chapter," said Lubin. California Beta continues to benefit from the momentum created by the banquet and seeks to get back to the top of the fraternity scene. The chapter intends to make the Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet a pinnacle event at Southern California for years to come.

"This is the best Greek event I have ever been to, and I've been the Greek advisor at USC for 30 years."

~BETH SAUL

Lessons from Pericles and Lincoln: An oration for SigEp at Connecticut

By CHRIS ALBERT, Connecticut '01



Chris Albert serves as the resident scholar for SigEp's California-Santa Barbara Chapter. He is studying there for his Ph.D. in political science. Albert attained the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps and did a tour of duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Albert enjoyed his time at Connecticut in better days. He wants to alert those who are complacent about their chapter's performance to learn from the demise of a once-strong force on that campus.

While I was extremely disheartened to hear of my chapter's closing at the University of Connecticut, I was sadder still to hear of the irresponsible behavior that led to this closure (see page 21). Indeed, I see that the chapter deserves its place among "our very own frat boys" in this issue of the *SigEp Journal*.

Upon reflection, I thought of the funeral oration of Pericles in *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Thucydides) and of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address." Pericles gives an official funeral oration honoring Athenian warriors who had fallen in the initial battles of the Peloponnesian War and also takes the opportunity to honor Athens itself. Yet, a close interpretation by political theorist Simon Stow in the *American Political Science Review* reveals a critical view that he argues, "uses the sacrifice of the honored dead to inspire the polity to confront difficult choices, and thereby to embrace a potentially new political identity and a different set of political solutions."

In the "Gettysburg Address," Lincoln honors those who fell in that great battle

while pointing out the great tasks that lie ahead for the living:

The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here....It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause

"The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here....It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

~ Abraham Lincoln

for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.

Lincoln speaks of the dead, their dedication to the ideals of the *nation*, and explains to the audience that it is up to them now to carry out this vision. This implies a critical view of the *nation* in its current state of civil war, and a call to reestablish the vision of the founding fathers.

I offer this oration, not to make apologies for my brothers' actions, but to remind others that there was once a great SigEp chapter at Connecticut and to implore those from other chapters to learn from the chapter's downfall.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, SigEp was a powerhouse on the Connecticut campus. The chapter won Buchanan Cups in 1983 and 1985, ranked number one in recruitment, and was consistently among the top chapters at the school in academics. The chapter produced four regional directors and one district

vision of the chapter we aspired to become in the earlier part of this decade, and it was through our own failings that the chapter became what it did in recent years. We failed to perform the sort of self-evaluation that Pericles and Lincoln asked of their contemporaries in honoring their fallen, and thus we failed to

this ignorance and failure to evaluate itself in the context of its past, it succumbed to excess by promoting underage drinking and brought dishonor upon itself and our national brotherhood. None are free from a similar fate if they do not reflect on how much their chapter is like the Connecticut chapter.

change for the better. Connecticut's downturn may have been foretold when not a single undergraduate member attended the 50th Grand Chapter Conclave in Atlanta. And so with a heavy heart and a mind to our own failings, we close this period of the history of SigEp at Connecticut.

I implore those who believe they have a good chapter to learn from the Connecticut chapter's fall. This was a good chapter that helped to build SigEp into the powerful national organization that it is today. It fell because it failed to recognize its own imperfections, and through

I warn you now that current Buchanan Cup chapters will be shut down within the next decade just as I can assure you that my chapter is not the only "good" chapter to have been shut down within the last decade.

Just as Lincoln inspired the United States to carry on in union even after his death, I hope, with great humility, that my words inspire some of you to take a long, hard and reflective look at your own chapters with a mind to preventing other great chapters from falling.

This is the chapter that most of my Connecticut Alpha brethren and I mourn. Indeed, we mourn it even more because this is the

Our Very Own Frat Boys

Chapters that do not live up to the ideals of Sigma Phi Epsilon bring dishonor and disgrace to our name. The *Journal* reports these stories to inform its readers and to show that actions have consequences.

CONNECTICUT ALPHA—UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Reason for intervention: Violation of risk management policies

Action: Chapter closed

In May 2008, the University of Connecticut contacted Headquarters about some significant allegations involving our undergraduate chapter, namely a party they held during the school's annual Spring Weekend where underage drinking took place. The chapter showed total disregard for the law as well as university and Fraternity risk management policies and procedures.

The chapter hosted an open party where it advertised online and sold tickets prior to and at the event. The chapter violated another risk management policy by purchasing alcohol in bulk for the event, using money collected from ticket sales. Police from different area agencies, including undercover police, came to the party and made several arrests. The four members (including chapter officers) working the door were charged with selling alcohol without a permit and distributing alcohol to minors, and approximately 60 people received minor in possession citations.

The four members who faced criminal charges racked up significant legal fees and fines amounting to thousands of dollars. In addition to criminal charges, they faced judicial charges brought against them individually by the university, including engaging in disruptive behavior, conduct that threatens or endangers others, and illegal possession, sale or distribution of alcohol.

A hearing was held in July, and the chapter lost its recognition at the university at least until July 2012. In order to return to campus, it must meet several conditions such as developing and implementing comprehensive recruitment, membership development, community standards and an alcohol education program. While the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) and the national Fraternity filed a formal appeal, the university stood by its decision and made no adjustments to the sanctions handed down.

Connecticut Alpha faced several other challenges. Over 70% of its membership had a student conduct history (either social or academic), the chapter had a poor recruitment record, members did not take care of their university housing, and volunteer support was minimal.

When Connecticut Alpha lost its recognition with the university, the AVC voted to have the chapter surrender its charter. The AVC will hold the charter in safe keeping until they are able to make their return, but the impact of these poor choices will last for years.

Young brother makes mark in cancer research

By ZACH GERMANIUK, Ohio State '09

While Tyler Miller, Ohio State '10, insists he doesn't want to save the world, he is a passionate warrior in the ongoing battle against one of our most formidable foes: cancer. In 2007, Miller began research in categorizing specific microRNA (miRNA) in Tamoxifen resistant breast cancer. Tamoxifen is a widely-used drug treatment for breast cancer. As Miller progressed through months of experimen-

tal research, he discovered something unusual: some specific miRNAs were massively deregulated in the resistant cancer.

After several more experiments, he and his colleagues determined that these miRNAs played a direct role in causing Tamoxifen resistance.

Miller's advisors immediately recognized the importance of the discovery and began seeking publication. Miller's findings, explained in



Tyler Miller discussed his research with attendees at the Denman Undergraduate Research Forum last spring.

the paper, "MicroRNA-221/222 Confers Tamoxifen Resistance in Breast Cancer by Targeting p27," were published in the widely-respected *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Miller is one of the youngest researchers to be so recognized, and has received numerous accolades from the

scientific community. After graduating from Ohio State, he hopes to pursue M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard, Johns Hopkins or Baylor. He credits his parents for his work ethic and his brothers in SigEp for keeping him sane, happy and physically active.



Instructors Jill and Bob Leiker held the attention of the Southern Methodist and Dallas communities as they reviewed the vital elements of self defense for women.

Southern Methodist SigEps, Pi Beta Phi, get defensive in Dallas

At Southern Methodist, sisters of Pi Beta Phi and brothers of SigEp came together for a common cause—TAKE Defense, an initiative to teach women the art of self-defense. TAKE Defense is one of SigEp's national service learning partners, and Texas Upsilon brought it to the campus and the local community.

Last spring, SigEp partnered with the local Pi Beta Phi chapter and hosted over 140 women in the student sports center on campus for a self-defense course. The event was such a success that the chapters partnered again for a fall session. This time they targeted SMU women as well as those from the local community. To promote the event, the two organizations posted stake signs and flyers, got an article in the school newspaper, held a Facebook event and talked it up. Brothers greeted about 200 participants as they entered a church that offered its gym for the event. These chapters intend to partner next year to raise awareness and educate women about the importance of self-defense.

American charters three years after launch

By **JIMM PHILLIPS**, American '09

After coming onto campus more than three years ago as a source of change, American University's Sigma Epsilon Chapter chartered as the Fraternity's D.C. Delta Chapter. Grand President **Stephen Shanklin**, **Murray State '70**, was on hand to present the chapter with its new charter during its chartering banquet at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., this past October.

SigEp's spring 2005 arrival at American came after the university's removal of two fraternities for major conduct violations. Recruiters met inside the university's student union building, Mary Graydon Center, to launch an effort to seek out men to join the new chapter. Twelve men responded, deciding that they, like the Fraternity's 12 founding fathers, wanted to be part of a different kind of fraternity experience. The chapter's first year was a time to build up traditions rather than numbers, as brothers reached out to American's Greek community. They launched activities like hikes on the Billy Goat Trail, began fielding intramural teams and started the commitment to academic excellence that continues to this day. The chapter has grown nearly four-fold and boasts 47 undergraduate members.

Alumni and Volunteer Corporation President **Nick Johnson**, '07, reflected on the experience of seeing the chapter he helped found earn its charter. "It's the culmination of three years of hard work," he said. "I'm really excited about the future."

Living the Balanced Man Ideal

American's SigEp brothers have come to influence every aspect of campus life as well as the national Fraternity. **Steve Dorsey**, '09, serves as a member of SigEp's National Board of Directors. Other brothers have held or currently hold a variety of leadership positions on American's campus, including the student seat on the university's board of trustees, top

positions within American's student government, at *The Eagle*, the campus newspaper, and in Division I athletics. Some SigEps have taken leadership roles in club sports teams, campus clubs and other community activities. The chapter has the highest GPA among the university's fraternities, with a 3.46 average for spring 2008, ranking it in the top ten GPAs among all SigEp chapters.

Volunteer support

A committed team of D.C.-area alumni from other chapters, as well as several recent alumni of American's chapter, have provided support for D.C. Delta. In addition to Johnson, American chapter alumni **Doug Reale**, '08, **J.D. Teitelman**, '07 and **Joe Vidulich**, '08 all lend their experiences as members of the chapter to the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC).

The AVC is holding a fundraising campaign to bolster a fund for D.C. Delta's Balanced Man Scholarship. The AVC's goal is to raise \$2,500 by Dec. 31, an amount **Kent Hickman**, **Colorado '61**, has agreed to match. If the AVC meets this goal, it will move forward with a total of \$6,000 in available funding for the scholarships.

About the campus

American University, chartered by an act of Congress on Feb. 24, 1893, is a United Methodist-affiliated institution in northwest Washington, D.C. The university has more than 5,800 undergraduates, 3,900 graduate students and 1,600 law students. The university has 12 fraternities and 13 sororities. Chapter meetings take place at academic buildings on campus.

By the numbers

Originally founded: **2005**

GPA: **3.46**

Total lifetime members: **66**

Current undergraduate membership: **47**



Villanova charter conferred

By **GREGORY DIPRISCO**, Villanova '10

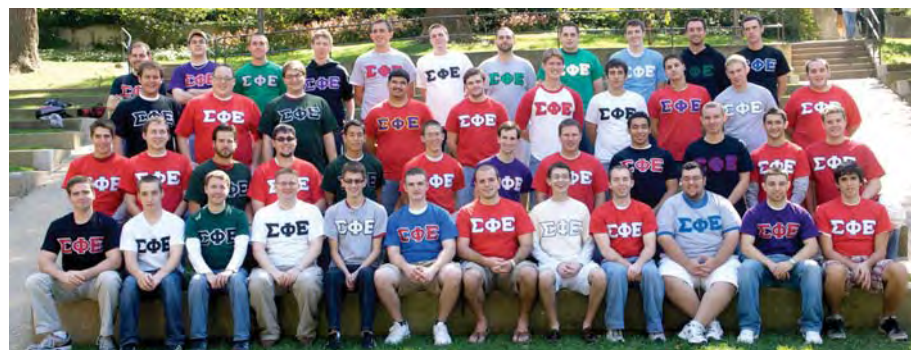
In 2005, **Thomas Forster**, '08, and **Brian Sharp**, '08, contemplated joining a fraternity at Villanova, yet concluded that none had a balance among academics, athletics and a strong social life. As a result, they decided to construct their own fraternal organization, one that would transcend stereotypes and strive for continued self-improvement.

Forster and Sharp realized that discontent with typical fraternities was widespread. Others also were in search of something more. Along with **Nick Gerlach**, '08, and **Tyler Boyne**, '08, they worked with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life to align their desire to begin a new fraternity with Villanova's desire to expand the Greek system. After an exhaustive evaluation, the university's Expansion Committee chose SigEp; it was the only fraternity that met their demanding criteria. The first executive board meeting was held shortly thereafter, and the dreams expressed at this meeting soon became reality. By the end of that semester, Villanova SEC was on its way with 34 members.

SigEp has become the top fraternity on campus in academics (Spring 2008 GPA 3.24) and manpower (65 members). Moreover, Villanova already has traditions. In addition to hosting the philanthropy event, SigEp Santa, over the past two years, Pennsylvania Rho has partnered with other Greek organizations. The chapter recently won the Alpha Phi/Sigma Alpha Epsilon Phiasta Bowl Flag Football Tournament, retaining its undefeated status in flag football.

Living the Balanced Man Ideal

Development and programming traditions include trips to the Philadelphia Orchestra each semester, cooking for a sorority, trips to the gun range, annual salsa dancing lessons, Dress for Success events at Brooks Brothers and wine tasting lessons for seniors. Living



The chapter, founded as a Sigma Epsilon Chapter in 2005, has 66 undergraduate and alumni brothers from across the country. The SigEp signature shows up in force on American's campus.



Villanova's Pennsylvania Rho earned its charter in November after a steady rise in manpower, university partnership and volunteer engagement.

the ideals of Sound Mind and Sound Body has attracted more prospective members than any other fraternity on campus.

Volunteer support

Key to the chapter's success is the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC). **Jacques Vauclain, Davison '90** recruited the active members of Villanova's AVC: **Peter Lafferty, La Salle '92, Joseph Gullo, Villanova '08, Paul Coneys, Villanova '86, Joseph Langella, Connecticut '83, James Daloisio, Villanova '98, and Molly Martin, AVC Advisor**, who focus on academic excellence, help to recruit the best men and manage chapter finances. The AVC and undergraduate executive board believe if the Balanced Man Ideal is practiced, the chapter is headed for long-term excellence.

About the campus

Villanova University is a Roman Catholic institution founded in 1841, and lies on a sprawling 200 acres. Nestled in the quiet suburbs of Philadelphia, the campus is dotted with old stone buildings, small chapels and a majestic church. The undergraduate business school is ranked 13th in the nation by *Business Week* magazine. The engineering school is ranked 10th, and the College of Nursing was honored by the National League for Nursing as a "center of excellence." The school is home to nine fraternities and nine sororities. The chapter holds its meetings in classrooms at Bartley Hall, Villanova's School of Business.

By the numbers

Originally founded: **1977**

GPA: **3.24**

Varsity athlete sports: **football and golf**

Total lifetime members: **721**

Current undergraduate membership: **65**

Florida Gulf Coast gains its charter

By **KENNY BASTANI**, Florida Gulf Coast '10

In November 2008, Florida Gulf Coast's Sigma Epsilon Chapter (SEC) chartered after a seven-year effort. Over two hundred people entered the Three Oaks banquet hall to celebrate a major accomplishment. Alumni, undergraduates and representatives from the other Greek organizations listened intently to the story of a brotherhood that has forever made a footprint at a very young university.

Kevin Price, '04, stood at the podium and insightfully recalled how the chapter was formed. "At the era of the university's inception, ten years ago, the administration was hesitant in bringing Greek life on campus," Price said.

Price explained that a group of students, who were eager to establish traditions and felt the need for a brotherhood, started a fellowship and named it Alpha Omega. Price said "Alpha Omega became an experiment for administration to see if Greek life could thrive at the small university. We exemplified leadership and gave hope to the administration that Greek life could be a very positive addition to student life. We pitched our idea to the school, before they brought on a national Greek system, and asked them to allow us to start a local fraternity and explore how to expand to a national Greek organization."

Alpha Omega recognized that Sigma Phi Epsilon reflected its ideals. SigEp Headquarters paid close attention to the local chapter and maintained strong communication with it. The group decided to become the first national fraternity on campus. Price continued, "During our time as SigEp we established and founded a Greek life steering committee, evaluated other universities and their Greek systems, and established a standard for Greek expansion at the university. We were able to help a group of women, who were then named Delta Xi, to become the first sorority on campus.

During the last five years, four student body presidents were brothers of Alpha Omega or the SEC Chapter. The chapter maintains the highest cumulative GPA among fraternities. Former Chapter President **Brad Piepenbrink, '08**, had a vision to attain the charter after seven years of concerted effort. He motivated the chapter to complete outstanding goals that would eventually lead to the chartering. The charter was presented by National Director **Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84**.

Living the Balanced Man Ideal

The accomplishments of the chapter could not have happened without the teachings of



Chapter President **Matt Tuggle, '10**, (left) and AVC President **Brian Zamorski, '05**, accept the chapter flag during the installment ceremony.

the Balanced Man Program. The chapter has won intramural championships in various sports within the last year and claims four of the last five student body presidents. The chapter has the highest cumulative GPA among fraternities, two Ruck scholars, and the Excelsior Cup for an excellent recruitment in fall 2007. Brothers also hold many leadership positions on campus and within the community.

Alumni and volunteer support

The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) has been a valuable asset in advising the chapter as well as investing time and effort to help the chapter excel. The AVC President, **Brian Zamorski, '05**, offered his experience and leadership in obtaining the charter. Kevin Price has maintained great interest in the chapter and has recently helped implement a new procedure for electing officers.

About the campus

Florida Gulf Coast University began classes in 1997. The university is located in Fort Myers, Fla. The main campus is situated on 760 acres and has an enrollment of 10,198. The campus supports a motivated and active Greek Life community including four fraternities and three sororities. The chapter does not have housing and holds its weekly meetings and rituals on campus at Whitaker Hall.

By the numbers

Originally founded: **2002**

GPA: **3.05**

Varsity athlete sports: **cross country**

Total lifetime members: **184**

Current undergraduate membership: **65**

Chapter
Spotlight

Texas Tech speeds up the success curve

By **WILL ROBINSON**, Duke '11

Successful academics, recruitment, finances and volunteering are the hallmarks of any good chapter—and the SigEps at Texas Tech have found that making efforts to improve in one of these areas can produce gains all around. “It’s a perfect circle,” said Vice President of Finance **Nick Lamarre, Texas Tech '09**, “It’s all about how bad you want it, and obviously we were tired of being seen as a second-rate organization.”

In just two years, the chapter’s academic standing has jumped from second rate to second place. Texas Iota’s 3.04 GPA ranks number two out of 22 chapters on campus. “One of the biggest things that definitely drives the success of the chapter is the few alumni who come in and raise the standards of what is acceptable for SigEp,” Regional Director **Mark Cassata, Illinois State '08**, said.

Texas Tech took a little help from a SigEp alumnus who graduated from a football rival school, Texas. Lamarre said **Randy Staff, Texas '69**, helped him rework the chapter’s financial statements to make them more professional. The advice paid off and Texas Iota was able

to achieve 99 percent collections last spring.

“When I came in, he was someone who had already wanted to help out and had donated before,” Lamarre said. He listened hard to Staff’s advice. “I took everything he had to throw at me, and it turned out great.”

Staff and other alumni volunteers have been invaluable mentors to the chapter during its turnaround, said Chapter President **Pat McGregor, '09**.

McGregor said Texas Iota is working to further strengthen its connection with mentors like Staff by developing an alumni newsletter. He noted that a stronger recruitment class enabled the chapter to make gains in its academic success and intramural sports performance.

“Kind of like a domino effect,” he said. “It has been a constant expansion and it has really been one step at a time.”

The chapter’s recruitment team targeted men who could satisfy high academic and athletic standards, said Rush Chair **Andy Larson, '09**. The chapter was rewarded with 42 new members last fall, a record high for the chapter in recruitment. Larson also noticed



From left: Vice President of Finance **Nick Lamarre, '09**, Rush Chair **Andy Larson, '09**, and Chapter President **Pat McGregor, '09**, at the Texas Tech main entrance. These are just three of the brothers responsible for this chapter’s upward trend.

the cyclical nature of the chapter’s advances.

“The better the guys you recruit, the better brothers they turn into and the better guys they end up recruiting—it’s sort of like an endless cycle,” he said. “There is a reason why recruitment is the lifeblood of the Fraternity.”

Larson added that the chapter had become engaged with volunteering for the local Habitat for Humanity.

“We have been going all over the place raising money, and it is one of the biggest things we are focused on right now,” he said.

Larson said the outstanding recruitment efforts had boosted chapter involvement in volunteering. Using a targeted recruitment approach helped Larson and his team find members who would be willing to buy into SigEp’s values. Better recruiting techniques led to increased participation overall.

“It’s crucial,” Larson said of recruiting brothers who are willing to participate. “If you have 120 guys and only 50 show up you might as well have only 50 guys.”

With their chapter growing in so many areas, the leaders of Texas Iota had difficulty pinpointing one feature that sparked the turnaround. Instead they pointed to an overall commitment by brothers.

“When you have mentors and alumni support, the progress is just exponential,” Lamarre said. “It’s all connected, and it has just been a different mentality—a mentality of success.”

“The better the guys you recruit, the better brothers they turn into and the better guys they end up recruiting—it’s sort of like an endless cycle.”

~ **ANDY LARSON**,
Texas Tech '09



Texas Iota chapter house

Cultivating a recruiting culture: Oregon State cranks up its manpower expectations

By **MICHAEL SELBY**, Eastern Michigan '02

After recording eight majors in professional golf, Tiger Woods began to tinker with his golf swing. Already one of the greatest golfers to play the game, Woods was not content with his past achievements. He recognized the wear and tear on his body and the way the game was evolving, and he made a critical adjustment.

Excellence hinges on the ability to anticipate coming events and plan accordingly. Championships are the result of proactive initiatives and preparation, not instant reflex.

In this sense, the ability to recruit in our chapters shares a common thread with professional athletic organizations. Oregon State, a Residential Learning Community, has nurtured a culture of recruitment within its chapter not unlike a championship athletic team.

Last spring, Oregon State's executive board met to assess the prospects for the chapter in the coming year. This was a strong performing chapter. Officers saw no dramatic downturn in chapter operations, no alarms signaling a threat to our brothers at Oregon State.

Despite a relatively good prognosis, Vice President of Recruitment **Derek Scott, '10**, was concerned. Scott and the executive board accurately recognized that the chapter's current program was not going to produce results he thought the chapter could achieve. The chapter could not afford to be complacent.

Recruitment retooled

First, Scott reorganized and re-energized the recruitment committee to operate cooperatively with the Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon member development stages of the Balanced Man Program. He began to develop new recruiting tactics to generate more interest in Oregon Alpha. Then, the chapter revitalized its Balanced Man Scholarship, making it a cornerstone of its multi-faceted recruitment effort.

Under Scott's guidance, the chapter began to make recruitment presentations to the sororities on campus. The concept was ingeniously simple: great sorority women will be able to identify great prospective new members and the recruitment team can then build an informal recruitment list.

The 2007 recruitment effort netted the chapter 33 new men. After tossing the old game plan out the window, Oregon State attracted 50 great men to join their ranks in 2008, a 50% increase in one year. The bold

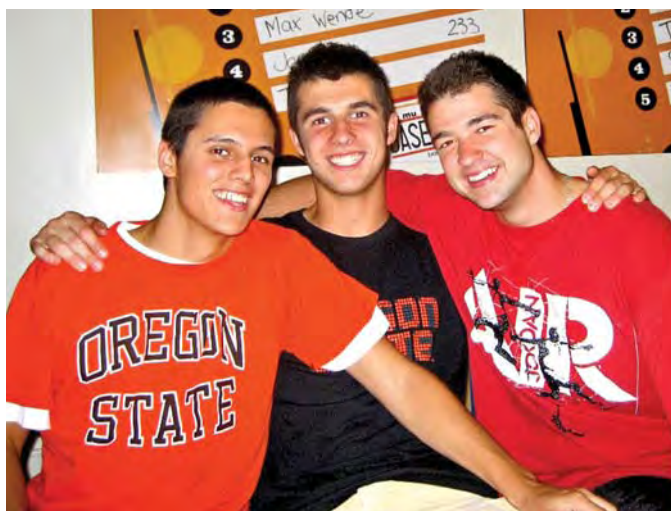


Members gather on the last day of formal recruitment to await the arrival of new members.

commitment to change at Oregon State has reaped astonishing results.

Excellence is contagious

Even more remarkable than their increased manpower, the expanded consequences of the chapter's recruiting efforts have had an impact across its operations. These improvements include increased attendance at chapter functions and stronger participation. In addition, philanthropic activities like the Born to Shine Project raised over \$25,000 for global school-building efforts. The chapter's morale has been bolstered by the excitement generated from recruitment and sparked brothers' motivation to engage in running the chapter. "Finding help for recruitment is a lot easier now. This [change] has strengthened the relationships within the Fraternity," commented Scott.



From left: Patrick Steers, '12, Ricky Egger, '12, and Logan Gerritz, '12, at a recruitment event last year. Oregon State's retooled recruitment approach capitalized on solid planning and smart tactics to keep the chapter on top.

The chapter recently enjoyed a local production of the musical *Sweeney Todd*. Participation in Balanced Man Program initiatives has increased. From CPR classes to cultural outings, the men at Oregon State have been infused with a renewed spirit founded in its recruitment.

The endeavors of Oregon Alpha have also attracted the attention of campus administrators. Coordinator of Greek Life and Order of the Golden Heart recipient, **Bob Kerr, Wichita State '75**, commended the chapter on its strong performance. "To use a common expression, they have all their oars in the water." Under Scott's recruitment initiatives, it appears the chapter is synchronized, rhythmically paddling in unison toward their recruitment goals.

How does Scott view his performance? "Our chapter was able to accomplish some amazing feats that have never been attempted – and that gives me great satisfaction."

The Detroit Red Wings boast 17 post-season appearances for the National Hockey League, a record for all professional sports teams in North America and a beacon for sustained excellence. They got there because they never settled for last year's momentum. As Derek Scott and the brothers of Oregon Alpha ingrain a recruitment culture in their chapter, they are on their way to making some records of their own.

Oregon State attracted 50 great men to join their ranks in 2008, a 50% increase in one year.

Leave your mark

“Don’t ask
yourself
what the
world
needs;
ask
yourself
what
makes
you come
alive. And
then go
and do
that.
Because
what the
world
needs is
people
who have
come
alive”

~ HOWARD THURMAN
theologian, philosopher,
civil rights leader

In so many ways, SigEps leave their mark on their brothers, their families, their communities and their world. When the theme for this year’s Conclave was determined to be “Leave your mark,” the *Journal* took it on as the theme for the entire year. In this issue, we look at chapters, alumni and volunteers who have impressively left their mark. The series kicks off with a visit to Tarrytown, New York in 1984, some 25 years ago when Grand President Frank Ruck brought the Headquarters staff together at this conference center now renowned as a leadership think tank. It was there that nationally known leadership expert Barry Posner facilitated strategy talks that fueled the Fraternity’s success in the ensuing decades.

In the summer issue, we’ll revisit a great moment in SigEp history from 50 years ago, when the Fraternity passed legislation to remove discriminatory restrictions on membership in 1959. By fall, we will have the 51st Conclave to cover, bringing you the highlights of how the newest generation of SigEps will leave their mark. As you read about your brothers, ask yourself how you can leave your mark.

Twenty-five years later, the mark of Tarrytown still resonates

By **CRAIG TEMPLETON**, Kansas '81
Executive Director

On a snowy January weekend in 1984, 30 Sigma Phi Epsilon volunteers and staff convened at the Tarrytown Conference Center overlooking the Hudson River just outside of New York City. **Frank Ruck, Michigan '46**, had been elected Grand President—a job to which he never aspired, but perhaps more accurately begrudgingly assumed.

It was a critical time, and Frank Ruck was just the man for the job. He would team up with **Barry Posner, Santa Barbara '70**, who would later become recognized worldwide as a leading scholar and authority on organizational change and leadership. We didn't know it at the time, but we were all part of starting both a major transformation of the fraternity movement...and Barry's study of organizational change leadership. Our work would influence Brother Posner's study of organizational change that would form parts of the foundation of his groundbreaking all-time best seller, *The Leadership Challenge*, with co-author Jim Kouzes, and the dozens of derivative books and leadership curricula.

My roommate for the Tarrytown weekend was Past Grand President **R. Eric Weise, Cincinnati '54**. "The Fraternity had just come through very difficult times," Weise recalls of the weekend. "Through that time, an increasing number of faculty thought fraternities should be eliminated."

The popular media hadn't helped. National Lampoon had burst into mainstream entertainment in 1978 with its first blockbuster, *Animal House*, depicting the antics of a fictional fraternity of misfits and degenerates. The image became a fairly self-fulfilling prophecy as many fraternities spent years living down to that reputation.

Ruck had been Grand Treasurer through some of the fraternity movement's most tumultuous years—the student uprisings of the 1970s Vietnam-era protests. Posner had been a student member of the National Board of Directors, then a Regional Director, and then elected to an alumni position on the Board.

Brother Weise, a political science professor, had been thrust into the worst of the deteriorating campus culture in the early 70s when

he was called home from traveling abroad to negotiate settlement of a standoff between students who occupied the administration building at Cincinnati.

SigEp had gambled in those days by continuing to invest in staff, borrowing at times, to keep pushing recruitment and expansion while many other fraternities suffered serious demise.

Ruck was determined to restore the relevance and image of fraternities, particularly his Fraternity. He had a vision and was concerned that others could no longer see the possibilities.

"He was deeply troubled by what he perceived as staff and volunteers lacking conviction and dedication to what we could do," said then-Executive Director **Chuck White, Western Michigan '62**. "He wanted to bring everyone together—he talked about alignment, he wanted to get all the parts of the Fraternity working together in alignment."

His vision would evolve years later as the Balanced Man Program, which has become the most significant change in the history of the American college fraternity movement.

It was the first time we considered converting fraternity houses into residential college environments, a concept that **Bill Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56**, had recently seen first hand at England's Oxford University. He introduced this concept to the group as a transformational movement for American campuses. Today SigEp leads the nation with the development of its Residential Learning Communities, which surpass the outcomes many universities are now experiencing.

Posner helped forge the foundation

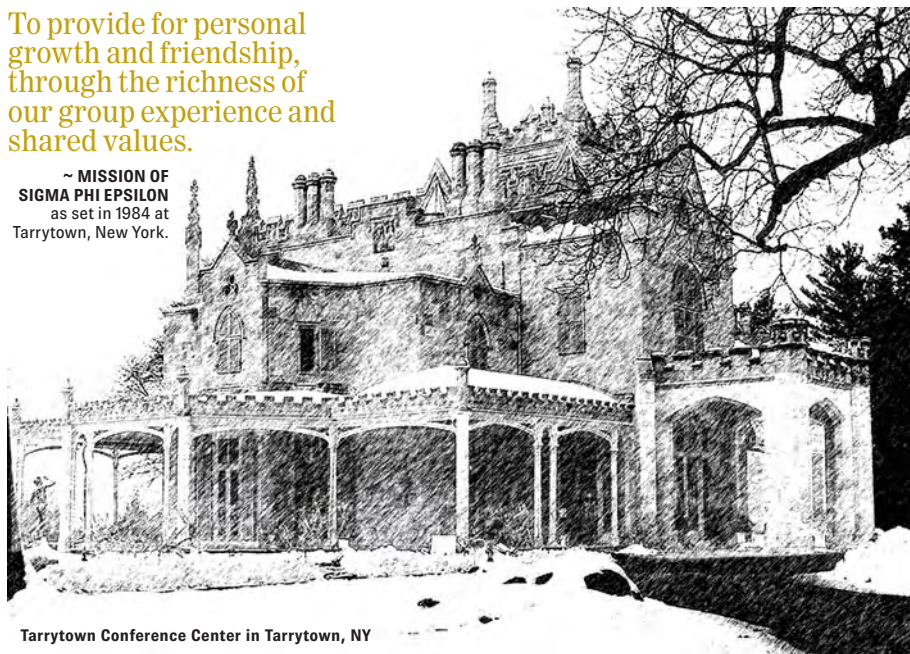
"We had many conversations with Frank about what the Fraternity could be," said Posner. "Maybe he and Chuck had a clear picture of where they wanted that process to



Key Players at Tarrytown:
From left: Frank Ruck, Michigan '46, Barry Posner, Santa Barbara '70, R. Eric Weise, Cincinnati '54, Chuck White, Western Michigan '62 and Bill Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56.

To provide for personal growth and friendship, through the richness of our group experience and shared values.

~ MISSION OF
SIGMA PHI EPSILON
as set in 1984 at
Tarrytown, New York.



Tarrytown Conference Center in Tarrytown, NY

come out, but they never told me. They both legitimately believed a metamorphosis was needed for the American college fraternity.”

As Brother Posner recalls, “We posed questions—we didn’t know what the answers would be, but we trusted the process to find the answers. Frank would challenge us with questions like, ‘Is this the best we can do?’ or ‘Is this really how we want to think of ourselves?’”

Brother Posner introduced methods and processes that weekend that became the structure for SigEp Leadership Academies for years to follow. *The Leadership Challenge* curriculum is the basis for SigEp’s Leadership Continuum programs today, 25 years later.

“One of the things I remember about that weekend—and it’s still challenging for me even today—was learning to trust the process,” said Posner. “Whether working with undergraduates, alumni, or whoever, given the

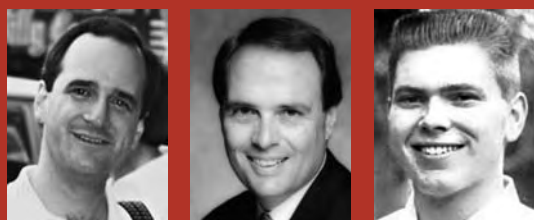
the 1990s, bottoming out in 2002-03. Membership has climbed steadily since then, with 6,053 new members and a total of 14,353 undergraduate members in chapters last year.)

Ruck challenged convention

“He ran things in a very unconventional way,” said Williams. “He challenged us—and everyone—to think in creative ways. He started to change our thinking in a way that set us apart from the other fraternities.”

Posner calls Ruck “the catalyst that kept us moving from one curve to the next in a way that has made SigEp the best at always setting a higher expectation.”

Bruce Hasenkamp, Dartmouth ’60, a young Board member at the time who would also later serve as Grand President, marked Ruck’s efforts as the impetus that would transform the Fraternity. “It was the occasion that led off his whole objective to transform pledging,” said Brother Hasenkamp.



From left: Craig Templeton, Kansas '81, Mike Williams, Memphis '69 and Bruce Hasenkamp, Dartmouth '60

option, they will all do the right thing. We didn’t know where it would come out [at the Tarrytown retreat], but we believed if we asked the right questions we would come out in the right place.”

Mike Williams, Memphis ’69, a Tarrytown participant new to the National Board that year, who would go on to serve as Grand President a decade later in 1993-95, recalls how the mission statements we developed at Tarrytown shaped the way we focused our efforts on the undergraduates, the basic structure we still use today. “From that standpoint, it was a watershed moment,” says Williams.

Williams connects the weekend to the growth that followed. SigEp was headed into its greatest period of growth, peaking in 1990, when we recruited 7,522 new members and had 16,800 total members in our chapters. (Fraternity membership declined sharply in

“It was the kind of stuff he loved—there were a lot of sessions where we’d sit around thinking and working on new ways to do things.”

“We didn’t know where it would come out [at the Tarrytown retreat], but we believed if we asked the right questions we would come out in the right place.”

~ BARRY POSNER

“Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees the others.”

~ ARISTOTLE

Marine Corps Commandant leaves his mark on leadership

By **MICHAEL MCDOWELL**, Nevada-Reno '03

"Almost everything I have needed to know about leadership for the Marine Corps, I learned at SigEp," remarked **General James T. Conway, Southeast Missouri State '69**, 34th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, while accepting his Citation at the 50th Grand Chapter Conclave in Atlanta, Ga.

The position of Commandant has often been compared to that of CEO for a company with a multi-billion-dollar budget and nearly 200,000 employees. But that may be where the similarities end. The Commandant is responsible for manning, training and equipping the Marine Corps. By statute, the Commandant is appointed as a four-star general. The position is nominated by the President and must be confirmed by majority vote from the Senate. As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he provides military advice to the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Defense and the President of the United States.

Conway learned how to lead and how to make an impact on the world's communities from his experience as an undergraduate member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He said he learned the value of harnessing a collective effort to accomplish a goal, keeping in mind that he would always be dealing with a diversity of personalities and opinions. He learned the inevitability of facing obstacles, big or small, realizing that they must be faced, dealt with (by a combination of adaptation, improvisation and determination) and used as lessons for the future. That helps marshal the strength to move forward.

Conway's personal leadership philosophy is what he calls the "hands dirty" approach. He leads by example and by being involved in every stage that he has asked others to treat with importance. But his method is not about micromanagement. Far from it. In fact, Conway believes in trusting the team to get



James T. Conway,
Southeast Missouri State
'69, 34th Marine Corps
Commandant

the job done and supports surrounding oneself with qualified individuals who are committed to the goal. In addition, he believes in taking care of those asked to follow you. In the Marine Corps, there is a well understood, albeit unwritten, rule that "officers eat last"—even if there isn't much to eat—indicative of the importance placed, not on the leaders, but the team.

Fellow Marines enthusiastically believe Conway backs up what he says with action and genuinely cares about all Marines and their families. They explain that he has always fostered an environment that encourages them to be "forward-thinking and forward-leaning without the fear of making mistakes." As Marines move up in the Corps, they develop their own styles of leadership, but tend to learn how to lead from other Marines with whom they've served. One such Marine said, "For all Marines fortunate enough to have served with the General at any of his various levels of command, we have indeed had the opportunity to observe and learn from one of our Corps' most effective and successful leaders."

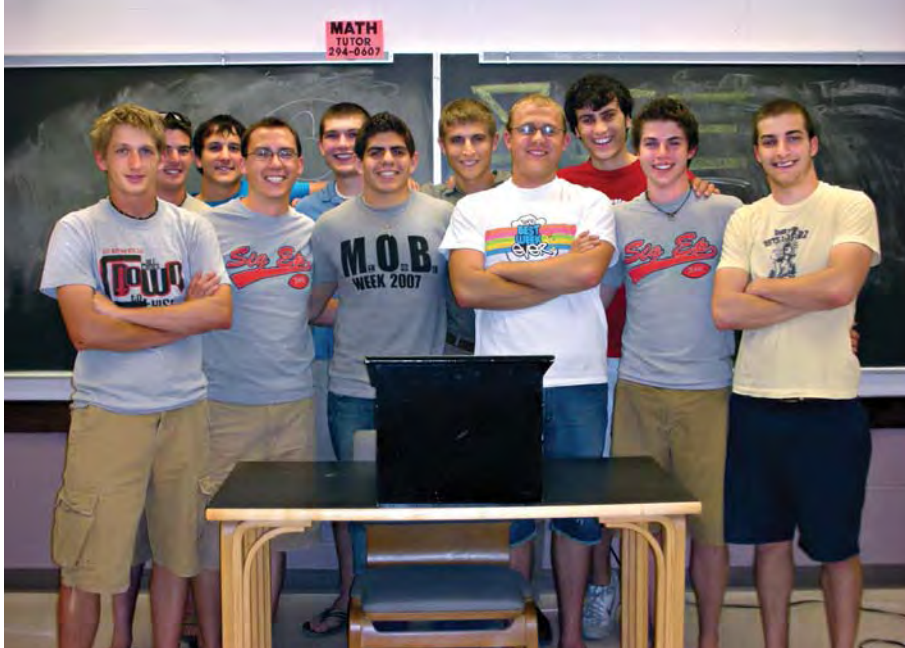
Along his travels as a Marine, Conway has embraced a larger ideal of Brotherly Love and observed that people, everywhere, are basically the same. "The accents may be different," Conway notes, "but we are one race of human beings. We share the same universal pain, joy, humor, love for family and desire for a quality life."

Conway has represented the Marine Corps worldwide, from sitting down with sheiks and Iraqi military officers in the Anbar Province to meeting with members of Congress on Capitol Hill. While on tours with the Marine Corps, Gen. Conway was able to directly impact some of our world's communities by providing disaster relief and medical services to individuals and families who were in extreme need. Why? Because it was the right thing to do. This virtuous idea is central to Conway's and the Marine Corps' ideology.

"You have to ask yourself, 'what is right to do?'" Conway says, "even if it may take longer, be more expensive or be harder to do."



Top Left: The Commandant is visiting with a few Marines assigned to a training team that provides military instruction to the Afghan Army. **Above:** A visit to an Iraqi border post at the Syrian border gives the Commandant (center) and the Iraqi border post commander the opportunity to discuss ground conditions.



Left: An enthusiastic SigEp group took part in an academic course offered by Ohio State exclusively to members of SigEp, Education Policy & Leadership 271. The class on career development and leadership offered in-house learning and apparently prohibited long pants.



Above: Recruitment Committee members mailed Balanced Man Scholarship letters to every Ohio high school in late May. Winners are invited to a banquet slated for January 2009, where 250 applicants will compete for \$3,500 in scholarships.

Ohio State marks new territory for chapter performance

By **SALVATORE A. MOSCHELLI**, Lawrence Tech '00

Most successful, long-lasting chapters in SigEp thrive because of the dedicated alumni and volunteers who lend consistency, vision, experience, and encouragement to a chapter. Volunteer involvement with the chapter is life changing for the young undergraduates.

So, it is quite notable when an undergraduate chapter grows beyond the sum of its parts and becomes a life changing force within itself. The foundation for such status is what Ohio State's Ohio Gamma Chapter has laid and built upon in recent years. It has marked impressive innovations in recruitment, member development and committee operations to propel the chapter to greatness while deeply impacting the lives of its members. The chapter attained Residential Learning Community accreditation in 2003.

Recruitment reinvented

When Abercrombie & Fitch Recruiter **Dennis Kaps**, Ohio State '03, settled down in the Columbus, Ohio, area, he brought his experience as SigEp's Expansion Director back to Ohio Gamma as a volunteer. Kaps introduced expansion-style recruitment to the chapter, knowing that it would help with member development as well as manpower. "Since graduating college I have been promoted three times in five years and exceeded my

work goals by 50% last year. I attribute that to the skill set I built in recruitment," he said. Past Chapter President, **Michael Repasky**, Ohio State '08, mentioned that the biggest transition was that "the whole chapter had to embrace recruitment and the recruitment process."

The chapter realized that they had to realign some of the typical SigEp committee responsibilities to build a more efficient recruitment process. One of the more innovative shifts involved the move of all recruitment event planning to programming committees, including the Balanced Man Scholarship. This allowed them to create a strategic, dedicated team of 15 to 20 of the chapter's top recruiters. The vice president of recruitment is intentionally not the best recruiter, but the best trainer and manager. Recruitment committee positions are highly sought after; brothers compete to make the committee and must perform to stay on it. Chapter members see it as professional training for a highly specialized business skill that they can use in their careers.

The recruitment process itself is well defined, a vital element on a campus of 38,000 undergraduates that defers recruitment, has no formal recruitment period and is only seven percent Greek. Each recruit goes through the same progression of events: cold call, initial meeting, SigEp member

development events, chapter meeting, pitch, formal interview, and the close.

Each potential member is asked for a transcript or write-up of their college grades which must be above a 3.0 GPA, or 3.4 from high school. This has helped the chapter earn a 3.43 GPA, well above the 3.1 all campus average. The vice president of recruitment hosts weekly training sessions where he teaches each part of the process to his 20 committee members.

Ohio Gamma has three-, five-, and ten-year strategic recruitment plans and actively prospects much like a college would for varsity athletes. For every 500 individuals contacted, the chapter will end up with 50 good leads. This has propelled them from 70 men to a 105-man chapter. The recruitment committee is broken down into targeted market segments focused on building the chapter in key areas such as diversity and varsity athletes. The teams are also comprised of brothers who have complementary strengths. Ohio Gamma has been so successful that they now host the Ohio Recruitment Summit where they teach their recruitment process to surrounding chapters.



Scott Dudis, '09, was voted Homecoming King along with Homecoming Queen **Vicki Bouttavong**.



John Knauff '10, (left) hopes Kyle Pedlar '09, makes his spike on the volleyball court just outside their SigEp house.



Above: When Ohio State members couldn't make the Mid-West EDGE, they hosted a condensed, one-day new member program and dubbed it xEDGE for "Xtreme EDGE Xtreme." Frank Butterfield, Southern California '83, challenged new members to try "living one's best life." Classroom discussions, a high-ropes course and a late-night bonfire got the job done.

New member development: Pairing up for success

Easily one of the toughest jobs in every chapter, four-year member development is the promise we make during recruitment that we must strive to deliver. Ohio Gamma sees this challenge clearly, and they have created integrated synergy throughout their program. "When you're in a chapter of over 80 men, being elected to the executive board can't be your only measure of success; each member must take ownership of a particular task," said Vice President of Communications **Scott Dudis, Ohio State '09**. Because of that commitment, they have created a Mentor/Mentee program and committee to ensure that positive mentoring relationships are established, and that the committee will support all brothers in selecting a mentor and developing as a mentor. One of the more intriguing components is the role of the Integration Guide. These member guides help a new member establish a niche in the Fraternity. Guides are responsible for driving the relationship, involving the new brother in the chapter and, ultimately, helping him find a mentor.

Program operations: Purpose first

Ohio Gamma has kept a focused development mindset by continuously putting the "why" behind the "what." Chapter President **Sean Mittelman, Ohio State '09**, asks his executive board, "Why are we doing this event and what are we going to gain from it?" He continues to explain that each chapter member must be able to express that up front, or ask more questions until they understand. One of the most pertinent questions that they confront is "How do we live our best life?" From this question stemmed the development of Sound Body Assessments. The program measures strength, endurance, flexibility and body fat percentage resulting in a good overall picture of fitness. This is accomplished through quarterly testing in the sit-and-reach, one-legged squats, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups and a mile run. When the chapter develops something that they do well, they add it into their by-laws. Sound Body Assessment testing is now a requirement in the chapter.

Proven performance

Ohio Gamma set a goal to be the best SigEp chapter in the nation. They quit worrying about Ohio State's issues, and went after all the awards, intramurals, and outside organization opportunities that they could get their hands on. Coupled with their innovations in recruitment, member development, and operations, this momentum has



Andrew DeLong '10, majoring in Speech & Hearing Sciences, gets ready for his ropes course for Ohio Gamma's on-site new member program.

forged one of Ohio State's best organizations and arguably one of the best in SigEp. At a recent EDGE, where a number of Ohio Gamma members volunteered as facilitators, **Carl Laurie, Western Michigan '05**, expressed his thoughts to the facilitator group that sums up the chapter the best, "You Ohio State guys are outstanding, and I'm not afraid to say it."

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

~ PLATO



From left: AVC Treasurer Kevin Smith, '98, Judd Weis, '85, Gary Lessis, '83, and Ron Eng, '96, surround Abraham (in baseball cap). Abraham has been a beloved fixture at Cincinnati since the early 80s.

John Abraham: Leaving his mark for 27 years and counting

By **SEAN COSGROVE**, Cincinnati '05
Development Director, Educational Foundation

"It feels like yesterday." Well, not quite...it was actually 27 years ago, in 1981, when **John Abraham, Cincinnati '77**, was recruited to be the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) President for the Ohio Theta Chapter. "You look back and see the starting point of being recruited to the AVC in '81 and realize what a run it has been. Why? The principles of SigEp were apparent to me as an undergrad back in the 70s, but the infrastructure of the organization is so improved. My own undergrad experience and grades would have been much better if I'd had the personal development experience that SigEp is providing today."

Conveniently, it was the late **Jim Robeson, Cincinnati '59**, a fellow Ohio Theta alumnus, who remarked during his term as Grand Chapter President, "SigEp's truly great chapters display consistent excellence over time." Ten consecutive Buchanan Cups later (a streak that dates back to 1989), Brother Robeson's home chapter has not let him down in that regard, thanks to Abraham's steady leadership. If you ask any SigEp alumnus from Cincinnati about the chapter, you can expect that his name comes up in the conversation.

Abraham stays intimately involved with SigEp both as a volunteer and donor. Even with three young children, numerous other volunteer commitments, and, as of July 2008, his own business after he bought a division of his former company, he continues his investment in SigEp. And his efforts have not gone unnoticed. He was awarded SigEp's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1992 and currently serves on the National Volunteer Committee. But he's never been in it for the accolades, "Paying forward is the main reason I still do

this. The years for young men between 18 and 22 can dramatically set the course for the rest of their lives. SigEp does make a difference and can be a key to personal success."

What does John believe has been crucial to creating the long-term success of the chapter? "Awards are great, but they should only serve as a starting point for the volunteers involved, not the culmination. This may seem like a long-term view but it works, and time passes all too quickly. Chapter operations are in the hands of 18 to 22-year-old men, so you need to be a Socrates. Ask questions and get them to see solutions that work in business, school, church, government and, therefore, SigEp. The answers must be theirs."

When asked why he's stayed involved over time, he remarked, "The product we offer is excellent, so volunteering on the AVC is an easier sell these days. I see graduates many years later doing so well in life. I laugh with them at how their lives are evolving. It is impressive to see Ohio Theta alums volunteering at chapters wherever they land and continuing to leave their mark on the organization that gave them so much." Abraham has certainly left his mark and set a good example for us to follow.

Cincinnati by the numbers

Ten consecutive Buchanan Cups since 1989

Started SigEp's Balanced Man Scholarship in 1986

Accredited SigEp Residential Learning Community since 2004

Manpower: 95

Rank: 1/23

Chapter GPA: 3.25 versus 2.99 all campus average

Into Africa: Founder of non-profit offers hand up to Rwandan artisans

By **ZACK SHANKMAN**,
Washington in St. Louis '00



A few of the faces of independent business ownership helped by the Indego Africa Project in Rwanda.



Matt Mitro, '00, (right) and Benjamin Stone, '00, with members of the Covanya cooperative in Rwanda.

When former Missouri Beta Chapter President **Matt Mitro, Washington in St. Louis '00**, graduated, he went on to serve as law review editor and finish at the top of his class at American University's Washington College of Law in 2003. Like many promising young lawyers, Mitro took a job at a high-profile international law firm in Washington, D.C. But he felt an intense desire to help alleviate the hardships that he had witnessed while living in Africa as a child.

In the spirit of service at the core of the Balanced Man Ideal, Mitro left his lucrative career as a corporate lawyer to launch the Indego Africa Project, a groundbreaking non-profit organization whose mission is to help Africans deliver themselves out of poverty. As Mitro's father, Tom Mitro, recently told the *Houston Chronicle*, "Africa had provided a living to us. Matt wanted to [give back] in a small way."

Starting with its pilot program in Rwanda, Indego Africa Project is challenging outdated models of development that encourage dependence on direct aid. Indego Africa sells unique handicrafts made by its Rwandan partner cooperatives and returns 100% of the profits,

thereby delivering to its partners a real stake in their own development. Indego Africa not only ensures a living wage of two to four times the national average, but it also provides long-term instruction in key business skills like bookkeeping and information technology. These skills and resources are both earned and owned by Rwandans. "I didn't want to build a conventional aid organization," said Mitro, "because our work will have a much greater impact if Rwandans can get a leg up in building their own businesses, rather than passively receiving aid."

The development community and the general public have begun to take notice of this innovative social enterprise. Several prominent individuals have expressed interest in Indego Africa's endeavors, including former Senators Tom Daschle and Bill Frist, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and foreign affairs author Stephen Kinzer.

Indego Africa's growth and achievements over the past two years also benefited from the hard work of **Benjamin Stone, Washington in St. Louis '00**. In 2004 Stone received his law degree from the NYU School of Law. As a

commercial litigator at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP in New York, he spearheaded his firm's pro bono efforts on behalf of Indego Africa. This past summer, Stone accompanied Mitro to Rwanda, where they met with their partner cooperatives and built inspiring new relationships. Upon returning, Stone joined Indego Africa full time as senior vice president and general counsel.

Indego Africa's success has drawn the enthusiasm and participation of numerous brothers from Mitro's chapter. Brothers **Will Craven, '00**, **Zack Shankman, '00**, **AJ Al-Fayez, '01**, **Brian Tilker, '01**, **Josh Walls, '00** and **Zain Koita, '01**, each accomplished lawyers or business professionals in their own right, have provided support, leadership and professional services. Mitro is grateful for the relationships he established through SigEp: "It's been beautiful to see how working toward something half a world away has strengthened my own personal bonds, and reminded me why I value these people and experiences so much."

For more information or to get involved in the Indego Africa Project, visit www.indegoafrica.org

Guyland: A tough place to be

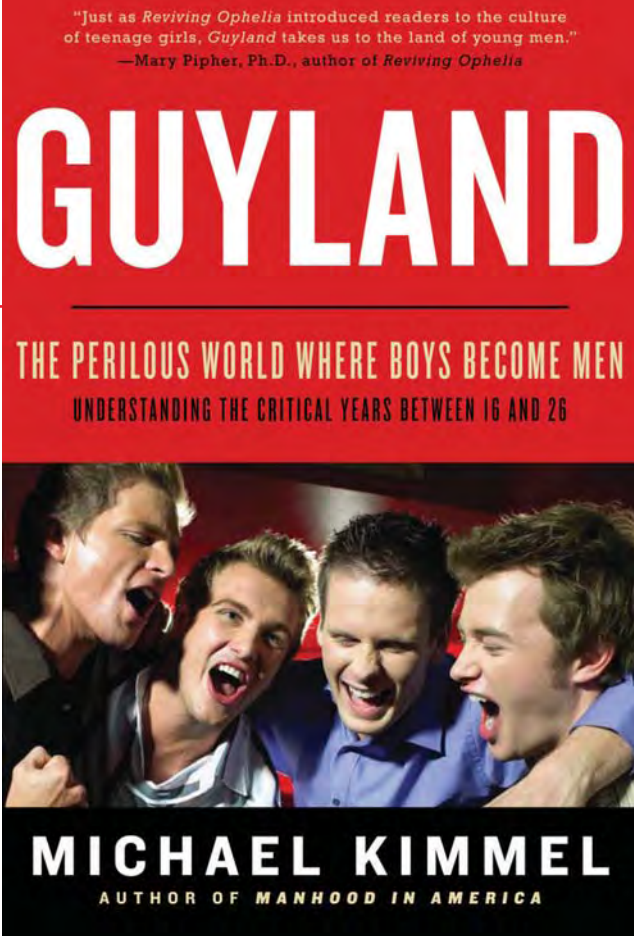
By CHARLES EBERLY, PH.D., Bowling Green State '63



Michael Kimmel is a sociologist and gender scholar who focuses his research on men and masculinity. He is a sociology professor at SUNY-Stony Brook in Long Island, New York.

Michael Kimmel's eighth book, *Guyland*, released in September, is a window on young men's struggles to make the leap from boyhood into manhood. Kimmel explains that young men today do not have a transition to manhood like mine: marriage at 22, a new job, one child at 24, a Ph.D. at 28, and three children by 30. They do not have a well-defined "road map" into mature adulthood. Educational expectations have been expanded, the average age to marry is the late 20s, the first job is "a" job and not "the" job. Living with two or three college buddies after college is more common, an extension of the college years rather than growth beyond them.

Kimmel's interviews with nearly 400 young men between 18 and 30 have resulted in *Guyland*, which describes their journey through the travails of transition, that time when young men are seeking a sense of who they are as men. They are trying to acquire their personal masculinity, an identity that takes them beyond the hyper-masculinity found in popular culture. As I read Kimmel's work, I clearly heard the voices of the nearly 600 young men who have joined Eastern Illinois since 1990 when I began to advise the chapter. Kimmel's description of "Guyland as a new stage of development" paralleled the topic discussed on our chapter's alumni bulletin board among recent graduates. We discussed doubts about first jobs, the excesses of weekends around "the friendly confines," the challenges of establishing relationships and the struggles with identifying a healthy personal masculinity. Nearly all had followed "The Guy Code" as they went through college, and now many were without a clear sense of personal goals or next steps.



Today's way to connect leaves gaps

Kimmel examines the apparent lack of young men's engagement with faculty members in the formal curriculum and college leadership activities, much of which he ascribes to the Guy Code belief that college is the last chance in life to enjoy camaraderie without responsibility. Kimmel calls the guy passion for computer gaming a safe way for men to connect. I see that lived out in the fantasy football leagues formed among our alumni and undergraduate members. They connect less frequently in person than they do through online channels like gaming, social networking and instant messaging.

Sports, in high school and beyond, was their common denominator for communication, as they jostled for position, and acted out their perception of manly behavior. Unfortunately, many of the messages, as Kimmel relates, conveyed a hyper-masculinity detrimental to forming healthy relationships with other men and particularly with women. From high school "Boot Camp" to binge drinking and physical tests of manhood (hazing) in college, Kimmel's respondents voiced their ambiguities with the cultural messages they receive and the image of manhood they hope to achieve. Kimmel argues that the only way to break the Guy Code "is to break the culture of silence" that supports it. The majority of brothers, who are bystanders, must hold perpetrators publicly accountable for their behavior when it becomes destructive.

Wherever young men congregate, as if it were limited only to young men, the topic turns to women, sexual prowess, sexual experience, and the pressure to perform as testimony to one's maleness. Kimmel negotiates the conflicting messages young men tell him they receive, first through surreptitious lurking on pornography

Sociologist examines the perils of approaching manhood

sites, then through a perceived college culture of hooking up to demonstrate one's maleness. He explores the role of women in Guyland, and the manner in which a great deal of sexual activity is as much to demonstrate one's maleness to other men as it is to be intimate with women. And even among women, the real competition seems to be focused on who among the other men are watching.

"Charismatic adult" can fill the gap

Kimmel's examination of *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men* offers the reader an in-depth view of the drivers of a boy's transition to manhood. In his final chapter, "Just Guys," Kimmel's respondents agree that "most of what happens in Guyland is stupid and gross." Mostly, these young men do not participate in the exaggerated forms of hyper-masculinity that many perceive as a standard they somehow were trying to reach but could not attain. Kimmel argues that mentors of young men

need "to encourage emotional resilience in guys—in our sons, our friends, our brothers." He states that, "To a man, they all spoke of at least one adult who made a difference" in their lives. Whether a parent, a coach, teacher, or other responsible adult, young men want someone to listen to them, to hear them, to support and affirm them. In the final pages, Kimmel concludes that "having a charismatic adult... is crucial" to young men as they journey to their end goal of becoming a "healthy, responsible adult." Here, Kimmel gives voice not so much to young men, but to the people like me who have dedicated their professional and volunteer lives to working with our younger brothers in SigEp.

Chapter advisors and local alumni boards can work to operate good physical facilities, but until we as volunteers understand the hearts of our young men who live inside those buildings, we do little more than provide a leaky roof over their heads.

Charles Eberly is a professor of counseling and student development at Eastern Illinois University.



Jimmy Friesema, Eastern Illinois '08, (left) and Mike Nowak, Eastern Illinois '08, endorsed Guyland and Michael Kimmel for "getting it," to the point that they wanted their parents to read the book.

Guyland is where hazing happens

By MATTHEW B. ONTELL, UCLA '05, Director of Member Development

Michael Kimmel's book has a very clear and profound implication for SigEp. It takes men like us to change young men's lives. Guyland is a must-read for volunteers and parents who want a glimpse behind the curtain at the issues and pressures facing our undergraduate brothers today. I've watched hundreds of my brothers try to navigate the amorphous stage

"between the dependency and lack of autonomy of boyhood, and the sacrifice and responsibility of manhood" even as I went through it myself.

The relevance of this perilous leap from boy to man runs headlong into the reality of hazing seen on campus today (and not just in social fraternities as many infer). Some rites of passage and

traditions have devolved into mental and physical abuse ostensibly to prove commitment, unity, brotherhood and manhood. This is a far cry from the traditions and values of our founders. Kimmel firmly declares that "the very mechanisms of initiation into Guyland are so distorted that they can never produce a real man—sensible, sober, responsible, a

decent father, partner, husband. Initiations in Guyland have nothing to do with integrity, morality, doing the right thing, swimming against the tide, or standing up for what is right despite the odds. In fact, initiations in Guyland are about drifting with the tide [and] going along with peer pressure."

So what are we to do? The men of the community, alumni of

the Fraternity, and volunteers must model what real manhood is about. We have to change "the culture of entitlement" to "a culture of integrity." Kimmel, not a fraternity man, specifically cites SigEp in Guyland on pages 288-289, and he highlights our efforts to live up to our values and be an

organization where "guys can be valued for their integrity and encouraged to be good, whole human beings," to be balanced men. Stay focused on building men who not only believe in, but also live Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love, because that's what being a real man is all about.

"We have to change 'the culture of entitlement' to 'a culture of integrity.'" ~ MATTHEW B. ONTELL, UCLA '05

\$20,000 in scholarships Your chapter Every year



By **DOUG SCHEIBE**,
Kansas State '87
Executive Director,
Educational Foundation

Imagine your chapter's scholarship banquet where you distribute scholarship checks to 10 or 20 deserving student leaders. You do this every year because generous alumni and parents have established a designated endowment with tax-deductible gifts to the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.

Dozens of alumni attend with their families. The entire chapter turns out in coat and tie. Many bring dates. You have invited the university president to speak, and she compliments SigEp as a leading student organization on campus and a partner in higher education. The parents in attendance love hearing that. The message was especially well-received by the seven other faculty members who attended at the invitation of chapter members.

And in the back of the room stands the smiling recruitment chair. He did not need to say a word to any of the 12 recruits that showed up. He placed them at tables around the room with various scholarship recipients.

Fantasy? Welcome to the Texas Christian SigEp scholarship dinner.

The Texas Christian Chapter was open for 21 years before closing for the next 24. It returned in 2000 with a few hundred alumni who had no compelling reason to give back after a generation away. Then **Bill Patten, Texas Christian '73**, decided to start a scholarship fund in the name of their founding president who died and never got to see the chapter return. Eight years later, the chapter has 130 men with a 3.16 GPA. The university chancellor speaks at their scholarship banquet. And 200 alumni have made gifts to build their endowment. And they are not the only ones.

Dozens of SigEp chapters have scholarship banquets like this. A couple of them—Oregon State and Tennessee—have been doing it for a while. They do it with \$20,000 a year. Really.

As you would expect, they are award-winning fraternities on their campus and nationally, and their recruitment strategy does not rely on thinking up fancy themes, hoping guys read flyers on bulletin boards and show up for sand volleyball with a sorority.

What about your chapter?

While most chapters give a few scholarships every year, they are not a big deal in size or fanfare. In fact, the average SigEp chapter has an endowment of merely \$21,000, producing about \$1,000 per year. But \$20,000 per year per chapter is not that far away. Really. Here is the recipe.

First, find your champion—a leader that can make a three-year commitment to launch your program. This person likes to organize volunteers and assignments, write letters, make calls, and wants to make a difference in the lives of today's students. That is his (or her) only volunteer job.

Second, that leader works with era captains to find three lead donors that, between them, can give a total of \$100,000 over three years. (They can give more if they want to.) Thank them publicly. Often.

Third, reach out to alumni and parents. You need to find 150 that can give an average of \$75 a month for three years. That is \$400,000. Thank them publicly. Often.

Three years later, your chapter has a \$500,000 endowment, producing \$20,000 in awards annually. Now you just have to find a seat next to the recruitment chair in the back of the room, so you can smile and enjoy the results.

What if you work hard and get halfway there? Your major donors give \$50,000 and you only find 75 other donors. Great! Look at the good you've done, raising \$100,000 or \$200,000. That's \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year in scholarships.

If you are interested in being the next Texas Christian, Oregon State or Tennessee, contact the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation at 804-421-GPA1 (4721).



Bill Patten, Texas Christian '73, addresses the crowd at the Texas Christian SigEP Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet. Brother Patten has led the Texas Gamma effort to build their scholarship fund, finding 200 new donors in the last five years.

SigEp Speaker Series is a big win in three cities

By E. SCOTT THOMPSON II, Southern Mississippi '99

SigEp has some very successful alumni—founder's of companies, CEOs, trailblazers—men who are at the pinnacle of their careers. Some of these notable brothers are recognized at Conclave and received the Citation for career achievement. In 2008, the Educational Foundation asked a few of them to share their thoughts on their professional experience and to reflect upon the role the Fraternity plays in their life to a roomful of alumni. They said yes. The result is a new program we call the Speaker Series.

The speaker helps determine when and where to have the event. Then we mail invitations to all alumni who live within 50 miles of the location and ask them to register on www.sigepfoundation.org. No cost to attend, we just want to know if you can make it. Alumni gather for a reception and a meal where the speaker presents and answers questions. Alumni have a chance to network, meet the speaker, and remember what the Fraternity has meant to them. Win, win and win. It's a simple formula and the success of these initial events suggests there's a strong desire to see them continue.

So, what did you miss?

In 2008, an average of 150 alumni and guests turned out for the three Speaker Series events. The first was held in Beverly Hills in July. Over breakfast, **Jeff Henley, California-Santa Barbara '66**, chairman of Oracle Corporation, spoke about his career. A month later, **Tom Hicks, Texas '68**, spoke in Dallas. Brother Hicks is a co-founder of the investment firm Hicks, Tate, Muse and Furst, and is chairman of Hicks Holdings, LLC—owners of the Texas Rangers and Dallas Stars. And, most recently in November, Citation recipient **Ed Haldeman, Dartmouth '70**, CEO of Putnam Investments, spoke in New York City.

The feedback on these events was overwhelmingly positive. "It was a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends, make new ones, and hear from Ed

Haldeman, a leader in the mutual fund/investment industry, about his take on the current economic crisis. Listening to Ed reflect on his SigEp experience was the best part of the evening: It's not every day that you get to hear such an accomplished, yet humble, person share his personal reflections on what SigEp has meant in his life. I look forward to the next event," said **Villamor Asuncion, Miami (Florida) '04**.

What's next

Dates and locations for the Speaker Series events are based on the schedule and location of the speaker, so check www.sigepfoundation.org for updates and to register when you receive an invitation in the mail.

Other opportunities to connect

The Educational Foundation holds alumni receptions in multiple cities throughout the year. These receptions provide you an opportunity to connect with alumni in your area. In 2008, the Educational Foundation hosted receptions in San Diego, Chicago, Indianapolis, Denver, Orlando, Miami, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., as well as London, to connect with some of the 50-plus alumni living in Great Britain.

Check our website for further updates and be on the lookout for an invitation to one of these events in the near future. We hope to see you there.



Top right: The Dallas Speaker Series drew about 200 alumni and guests. Speaker Tom Hicks, right, enjoys time with an attendee at that event.



Above, from left: Sean Cosgrove, Cincinnati '05, chats with Michael Hattrup, Wichita State '05, and Troy Rohr, Kansas State '85, before Hicks' presentation.

Malta and Sam Akins, North Texas '54, share a moment with Hicks (center).

Impact: You be the judge



By **GARRY KIEF**,
Southern California '70
President, Educational
Foundation

Several months ago I received a thank you letter from a Federal judge who started by thanking me for finding him and sending him *The Journal*. I was instantly relieved once I realized it was not an order to appear somewhere and testify about something. Even more so when I stopped shaking, read the letter, and realized that he was also thanking me for SigEp. I am Marshall. I am SigEp. But I can't take any of the credit for either.

What I can do is share that his letter went on to thank me for the impact that SigEp had on his life. He didn't realize it when he was an undergraduate in the fifties. A law school student. A young lawyer, or a Federal judge for the last twenty years. He realized it when, after 40 years, he received his *Journal*...read about his brothers... found hope and heart in their accomplishments...and finally understood.

His letter has rested on the corner of my desk for these past few months.

And then Craig called and shared that this *Journal* would be about "leaving your mark."

And I finally understood.

Now I knew why I had saved this letter. Was moved by the message. And inspired by the reality that, unknowingly, SigEp always leaves its mark.

Unfortunately, for me, my Pledge Master (Thank you sir) had his own definition for "leaving his mark."

A definition, btw, that in hindsight, now sounds pretty dumb.

Fortunately, for many, leaving their mark means a building, a chapter house, a scholarship fund, an academy, a quest...because deep in their hearts they believe so much in our Fraternity, in you and in our future. They provide the financial and physical foundation that is paramount to our prominence.

And then there are others who counsel a chapter, govern a district, mentor a kid in need, help a little

brother when he gets dumped, offer a shoulder when times are just "too tough," or a kick in the butt when you know your brother just needs a kick in the butt. They too, leave a mark.

You have them too. People who hang on every word; brothers who look to you for inspiration.

If you don't know it yet; someday you will.

Someday you'll find that you inspired

That judge, by the way, sent in a contribution for \$1,000.

It was testament to his older SigEp brothers who had no idea of the impact they had.

"He realized it when, after 40 years, he received his *Journal*...read about his brothers...found hope and heart in their accomplishments...and finally understood."

But then, there is one more group.

And it includes all of us.

A friend, who is much more spiritually evolved than I would ever hope to be, always reminds me to "be aware of your impact."

And I say the same to you.

A trip to my hometown always brings recognition from a stranger who remembers when I was student body president.

Or a middle aged dad who thanks me for teaching him how to swim when he was an eleven-year-old Scout.

The doctor who thanks me because I told a young med student to never give up.

a kid to become a judge.

Said something that needed to be said.

Kicked a butt that needed to be kicked.

And yet, because you're a SigEp, you didn't even know you did it.

All you did was live a life of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

All you did...was leave your mark.

Fifty years ago our Midwest brothers left their mark on a young undergraduate who wanted to go to law school so he could become a lawyer and hopefully someday become a Federal judge. They didn't know they were leaving their mark. He didn't know they did. Forty years later they discovered their impact.

The impact we all have.

The impact you have.

As we celebrate the Holidays...and the New Year...let's all be thankful...and aware of...that impact.

And as SigEps...let's all look forward to that day...forty years from now...when we can look back...and be proud of..."leaving our mark."

And if that mark just happens to include a \$1,000 contribution to your Foundation...well, that would be OK too.

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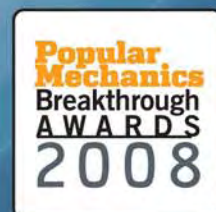
S M A R T P E N

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Alumni News

Professor presents perspective on education at Oxford

By ERIN MULLALLY, Michigan State '99

This past fall, **Matt Seimears, Pittsburg State '92**, was selected to present at the Oxford Round Table at England's University of Oxford, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities. The Oxford Round Table held its first meeting two decades ago and has since become one of the foremost international forums on educational issues and teaching methods.

Seimears, an assistant professor of elementary science education at Emporia State in Emporia, Kan., was one of only 35 people selected to present at this important venue. His

selection was based on the strength of his academic credentials, including his key career achievement of writing a recent paper published in the *International Journal of Arts and Sciences*.

While attending the Oxford Round Table, Seimears presented the ideas from his paper entitled "No Child Left Behind vs. Constructivism," which outlined how the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 may end constructivist-based teaching in American scientific education. Constructivist-based teaching is "student-

generated learning," accomplished through activities and experiences, contrasted with learning based strictly on absorbing facts and information.

"At first it was intimidating because the round table format is designed for debate. But it turned out to be a great enrichment experience for me, as I was able to successfully present my topic and discuss it with some of the top thinkers from around the world," Seimears reflected.

Seimears is writing a series of academic textbooks on effective teaching methods, the first to be published later this spring. He gives much credit to SigEp and his days as an undergraduate member at Pittsburg State. "Without Sigma Phi Epsilon, I would not be where I am at today. My chapter helped me become a critical thinker, it taught me the importance of brotherhood, and it molded me into a man," he said.

He enjoys keeping up with his SigEp brothers. "Our chapter has a great alumni board, and they keep everyone connected globally," he shared.



Matt Seimears, Pittsburg State '92, standing in front of Harris Manchester College at Oxford, where he defended his ideas about education.

One way to overcome your fear of heights



Early October sun hits Chapter Counselor **Steven Kolanowski, Illinois '04**, as he navigates a knife ridge via the Kletterstiege route to the Schwarzhorn in the Swiss Alps. Kolanowski conquered his challenge with heights on a trek to the Bernese Oberland with **D. Shawn Dagleish, Illinois '81**, and celebrated by unfurling the American flag at the summit. Later, Kolanowski said to Dagleish, "You helped me overcome a fear I've had since childhood. In the past, tall ladders would always make my legs knock and buckle, but not when I was with you. I just watched, trusted and followed you. You led by example and motivated me to not to give up!"

Peplow inducted into exclusive Bradley society

Bradley University's Chapter Counselor **Gary M. Peplow, Bradley '62**, was recently inducted to the school's Centurion Society, becoming the sixth SigEp recognized by Bradley for outstanding career achievement. Peplow is a retired partner of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, a highly-respected Peoria, Ill., law firm. He has been a member of the Illinois Delta Alumni and Volunteer Corporation for more than 20 years, and has served as chapter counselor for the past three years. The Centurion Society was created to "honor outstanding Bradley alumni for their career achievements in business, public life and the professions." Centurions are "individuals of special talent and attainment who have become national or international leaders in their field." Peplow joins brothers **Bruce Barrington, '64**, **Robert Hastert, '59**, **David Bergman, '61**, **Willis Tribler, '55**, and **Nicholas Ninos, '58**, in the 154-member Society.

Non-profit mends eco-systems, restores communities

By **PATRICK MURPHREY**, Christopher Newport '05

Ron Chapman, Valparaiso '78, realizes that SigEp's ideal of balance extends beyond individual development and can reach the entire planet. In that spirit, Chapman spent 2004-2007 as the volunteer Chairman of the Board of Holistic Management International (HMI). HMI, founded in 1984, is a non-profit organization that is restoring land and water cycles around the world, as well the lives of people dependent on the land. According to the HMI website, they use holistic practices to yield a "triple bottom line of sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits." Some of these practices include optimizing rainfall and conserving water, reversing desertification in brittle environments, and enhancing family relationships.

Chapman describes his SigEp experience as rich with developing relationships, including a mentor relationship that has lasted for 19 years! He remains committed as a SigEp volunteer because of the organization's focus on developing leaders through the Fraternity's Leadership Continuum. "As a leadership and organization development consultant, it has become increasingly apparent that there is not enough attention devoted to the early development of leaders. And in recent years, it's become clear that it applies to more people than I ever imagined," Chapman said of his involvement. He saw this training pay off when, after a high-impact EDGE ses-

sion, a young brother approached him relating what he had learned and how he intended to apply it.

Chapman is eagerly anticipating the April 2009 nationwide release of a documentary entitled "Healing the Land" which tells the story of HMI. According to Chapman, that story reveals "the connectedness in the biosphere in an extremely profound way, the way that Holistic Management has learned to see our world and our relationship to it."

Chapman uses the etymology of the word 'humus', the living part of the soil, to illuminate this connectedness: Humus "proves to be the same root for the words human and humility. So it turns out our human identity is defined by the earth. Of course healthy earth would produce healthy people. [The Documentary] makes that linkage clear."

An example of how HMI works can be seen at their learning site in Zimbabwe. There, HMI worked with local natives to implement management systems to improve their ecological footprint. HMI staffer Ann Adams explains the effort in her article A Modest Proposal: Expanding Our Ecological Footprint. "While neighboring lands remain desertified and riverbeds dry (even in wet years), the land at our learning site is moving in the direction of healing ecosystem processes with more plants covering once bare ground." The effort has seen dry riverbeds run again, and improved wildlife habitat will draw tourist



These local game scouts in Dimbangombe, Zimbabwe, train an orphaned elephant that will be used by staff to support big game hunts on the ranch, just one way the ranch helps sustain the community. Chapman (*second from right*), Shannon Horst, the Executive Director of HMI (*right*) and Jody Butterfield, (*left*) a founder of HMI, were monitoring progress on land restoration and doing some planning for the future of the ranch and communities in the 400,000 acres surrounding it.

income for that area. "Likewise, villagers can now provide more food security for their families as they have to forage for their livestock. In turn, that livestock is also used to increase soil fertility in both rangelands and crop areas, increasing crop yields," Adams said.

What opportunities does Chapman see for undergraduates and alumni to leave their mark? "There is so much good work needed in the world in almost any imaginable place or circumstance. Just look for a good fit, a place where you can add value based on what you bring to the table. If that is at SigEp, all the better. If it's a

charity, both parties will benefit. Even if it is only spending time with people who would appreciate your attention, it is enough." SigEp teaches its members to serve in any worthy environment. The key is to serve a cause greater than one's self, which Chapman took on heartily as the Chairman of HMI.



The green areas shown here in New South Wales, Australia, have been holistically managed. Even in this time of drought, the land is healthier and more resilient because the land managers used Holistic Management practices and principles.



Chapman received his bachelor's from Valparaiso and a master's degree in social work from SUNY-Albany. He is the founder and principal of Magnetic North LLC, and offers consulting and speaking services. Learn more about HMI and its efforts to restore damaged areas of the planet at www.holisticmanagement.org.

Making waves behind the camera

By TREY WYDYSH, Richmond '07

Most of us know Archie Bunker, that blue-collar curmudgeon from Norman Lear's *All In The Family*, or more recently, Dan Conner, the easy going, loving husband from *Roseanne*. And many SigEps also know that Carroll O'Connor (Bunker) and John Goodman (Conner), the actors who made their roles famous, are SigEp alumni themselves.

Over the years, many famous actors have worn the SigEp letters as undergraduates. And recently, two SigEp alums have been making waves behind the camera.



Gabe Sachs and members of the new 90210 cast



Nate Bolotin: Producer of feature films

Nate Bolotin, California-Santa Barbara '05, co-founded XYZ films, a production company based in Los Angeles and New York City.

After graduating from UCLA's producers program with his master's degree in 2007, he worked as a senior executive at The Collective, a management and production company in Beverly Hills. In April 2008, Bolotin formed XYZ with two fellow UCLA graduates.

XYZ recently entered a partnership with Time Inc. to produce films based on stories that have appeared in the pages of such publications as *Time*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Fortune*. *The Journal* recently had the opportunity to ask Bolotin a few questions about XYZ, his time as a SigEp and his career in Hollywood.

How did you become interested in film?

I had an interest in making movies ever since I was a child, but I never thought it would be my career. As a young boy I would hang out at my father's retail store, which sold high-end home electronics, and I would spend most of my time in the home theatre room, where I would watch films like *Apollo 13* and *The Abyss*. But it wasn't until I started taking college classes in the film program—mostly

having nothing to do with film production but focused in history or philosophy—that I realized my passion.

What experiences as a SigEp guided your career?

Since I rushed and pledged SigEp in the fall of my freshman year, I became very close with my brothers early on. Although I didn't make films with any of my brothers, they were totally supportive of my efforts. They would help me assemble materials and locations for my short film productions and would attend my premieres at the local Isla Vista Theatre or downtown during the Santa Barbara International Film Festival. SigEp provided me with a great deal of support through my entire time there.

Why did you decide to start XYZ Films?

The philosophy for partnering and starting the company was to be able to produce movies starting at the idea stage and spend most of our time on development. Three traditional phases of financing go into making a film. The riskiest is known as development, where the idea and/or underlying rights are acquired and developed into a finished screenplay. This is where XYZ invests its time and capital. The second and third phases are where most of the money is spent: on the physical production of the film and finally, marketing and distribution.

Tell us a little more about your current projects.

Many of the projects we are working on are not yet public. One project is about the incredible story about former UFC fighter Lee

Murray, who, after a promising start to his fighting career, ends up pulling off the largest cash heist in history of \$100 million. We are also working with Disney star Selena Gomez to develop and produce feature films for her to star in. Outside of film, we are working expeditiously on producing the book *American Psycho* (also a film starring Christian Bale) into a live stage musical. A few others will be announced shortly.



Gabe Sachs

Gabe Sachs, Chapman '83, was a founding member of SigEp's Chapman College Chapter and graduated from Southern California's School of Cinema/TV in 1984. He is the co-founder of the

production company, Sachs-Judah (with Jeff Judah) and has written for such prime-time television shows as *Freaks & Geeks*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Undeclared* and *What About Brian*?

Sachs is the co-executive producer and co-creator of the new *90210* series, which has been picked up for a full season by the CW Network. We had the chance to talk with Sachs about his career in Hollywood and his current projects.

How did you decide to become involved in producing?

I was always interested in writing and directing. Producing is something that just happened. I used to make short films and homemade TV pilots with whatever means I had, which were mostly a consumer grade camera and a bunch of friends. I was always organizing and figuring out how to stretch the \$50 I would have to make something; little did I know that that was producing. I was fascinated from an early age with the behind-the-scenes of how movies and TV shows were made.

What has been your favorite, or most satisfying, project so far?

I think our favorite project was *Freaks & Geeks*. It was an amazing experience all around. We were making little movies every week that were based in reality. The stories all came from everyone's lives. We have learned so much from Judd Apatow (executive producer of *Freaks & Geeks*) in the 10 years we've known him, and that was the beginning of it all.

Tell us a little more about the new 90210.

We were approached to do the TV show *90210* after Rob Thomas (who was working on the original script) went to do his other shows that were picked up. We weren't sure how our *Freaks & Geeks* sensibilities would mix with *90210*...but we saw it as a cool challenge. Jeff and I wrote a new version, and they ordered 13 episodes off of that script. It was a whirlwind that hasn't stopped. It's been an amazing experience.

With a full season of episodes ordered, are there high hopes that the show will be picked up for a second season?

I think the second season will probably happen if the numbers continue to grow like they have been. Hopefully the show will get more and more popular and [the network] will embrace a second year with open arms.

Has your experience as a SigEp had an affect on your career?

I think I was really an observer when I was in SigEp, and I learned a lot about the value of being organized. I was able to observe what others got out of the Fraternity—which was really important—and to see how valuable friendships could be.

Diabetic brothers help kids deal with their disease

By RICHARD HIGHAM-KESSLER
Emory '09

Justin Shirley, Austin Peay State '07, was eight years old when he heard news that would change his lifestyle forever: he had diabetes. Facing the



Wilson, (left) and Shirley tapped into their personal experience with diabetes this summer by working with diabetic kids at Camp Sugar Falls.

life-long challenges associated with the condition, he found comfort in Camp Sugar Falls designed especially for children with diabetes.

"I remember going to the camp and being around others that had diabetes, knowing I was not alone," said Shirley. Shirley, now a member of Tennessee Eta's Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, approached fellow diabetic brother Hunter Wilson, '11, to give back to the camp this summer.

"When I was first diagnosed with diabetes, I was mad for a couple weeks, but now I wouldn't go back and change it even if I could," said Wilson. "I saw [the

camp] as an opportunity to encourage a younger generation to have the same outlook on life."

Organized by the American Diabetes Association every summer in Nashville, Tenn., the week-long camp aims to foster the children's confidence and independence in their abilities to manage the disease.

In addition to teaching the campers how to take insulin injections and check blood-sugar levels, Shirley and Wilson helped address the more personal—and more difficult—challenge of handling peer reactions to their condition.

"It is a disease, but to me it is a motivator. Many of those children came into the week nervous yet they left with their heads high in the air," said Wilson.

Both brothers fondly remember the swim sessions in the afternoon when the children would clamber on top of them, begging to be thrown in the water. Wilson would often have to fend off mobs of campers trying to dunk him underwater.

"The camp was easily the greatest part of my summer," he said.

Fifty campers from ages five to twelve learned how to manage their diabetes by altering their lifestyle and also participated in self-esteem-building exercises.

"SigEp has taught me to help others in need. What better way to do that than to help children with something I had to deal with, just like them" said Shirley.

"We cannot change the cards we are dealt, just how we play the hand."

~ RANDY PAUSCH

Total immersion: Life inside a Japanese village

By ROBERT MENEFEE, South Florida '05



Menefee pauses at the Mizubun Shrine's Fall Festival. Large, portable shrines called Mikoshi, represent the local neighborhoods and are carried by the residents to the main shrine.

When I fell in love with Japan, I knew I had to live there! I was only seven, and I believed that "Ninja" was a valid occupation.

After arriving in Japan in 2006, I soon let go of my pre-conception about modern-day Japan. I am heading into my third year teaching English in a rural Japanese village in Nara prefecture. Adjusting to the culture shock of

honorifics, to ingratiate myself in talking to superiors, to indirectly express ideas or suggestions, and to practice the etiquette of the culture that has now become part of my daily life.

Once I gained a certain level of competence in Japanese, I was met with a new set of cultural challenges. Many people visit Japan or study there,

and so they see their culture as completely homogenous. As an American raised in a heterogeneous culture, I struggled to understand that. My brotherhood experience at SigEp taught me the importance of accepting the differences of others, something I have been able to share with the Japanese. The Japanese have taught me an even greater empathy and



interest in the culture and joining local groups, I have been accepted not just as a "foreigner" or "English teacher" but as a member of the community, a great honor in a culture

translated as "lion dance." I am the first foreigner to perform the dances of my village in its 300-year history. I believe the privilege was bestowed upon me in appreciation of my

"My brotherhood experience at SigEp taught me the importance of accepting the differences of others, something I have been able to share with the Japanese."

~ ROBERT MENEFEE,
South Florida '05



Menefee, (right) teaches an English class at a rural education conference

moving to an Asian country was harder because the village is so remote, and I didn't know a word of Japanese.

The language itself is complex, and speaking it requires a subtle knowledge of cultural norms. I had to learn to speak in

but they rarely get the opportunity to go beneath the obligatory politeness of the culture and come to understand it. The communication, thinking and values of the society are challenging. Almost everyone is Japanese,

appreciation for these differences in a deeper way, one which most non-Japanese cannot comprehend.

As SigEps we learn the importance of community involvement. By showing an

traditionally closed to foreigners. As a community member I participate in tea ceremonies, sword drawing (*iaido*), drumming (*wadaiko*), and a traditional performing art called 'shi shi mai'. *Shi shi mai* can roughly be

interest in and respect for their society, customs and ethnicity. These kind acts tell me that I am teaching and learning much more than language.



Menefee has been given the honor of performing the "stacked lion" dance at the Fall Harvest Festival. His circle is the only group in the village who performs this dance. The top man is one of Menefee's 6th grade students. The children are chosen during 4th grade and practice the dance for three years. The group practices four hours a day for one year to prepare for the festival.



Mt. Yoroi and the river near Menefee's house.

Lodge built on dream of eco-friendly, outdoor adventure

By THOMAS B. JELKE, Florida International '90

When Jim Kimball, Texas '91, was a junior in college, he dreamed that one day he'd have his own business, and that somehow it would be tied to his love of the outdoors. He shared his vision of a fishing lodge in an exotic part of the world with his wife, Renee, and a few years later with his friends Jay and Stefanie Viola. "Before you knew it, we were making plans. We had regular jobs, of course, because we really didn't have any money to fund this concept, but Jay and I took all our vacation time to check out possible locations," he said. For more than six years, Kimball and Viola trekked across the Caribbean to find the perfect location. A deal they made in Belize fell through. "That hurt, but we were determined. We pulled out a globe and tried to find a place to go next," Kimball said.

In 1999, Kimball and Viola discovered Bocas del Toro, Panama, an archipelago consisting of 168 islands. They liked what they saw: a stable government, financial opportunity, location, beauty, and opportunities for adventure activities. "We decided this was it and took the plunge." Kimball resigned from Champion Technologies, Inc., a petro-chemical corporation, and flew back to find the right piece of land. Viola moved down in early 2000 to help Kimball develop the area.

Kimball believes that his time in SigEp at Texas "helped open my mind a great deal...opened my eyes to a whole world of opportunities and perspectives. It also helped with my confidence. When you tell people you are leaving a successful job to move to the jungle, that look in their eyes can shake you if you aren't confident in what you are doing."

Kimball also had confidence in his decision to build conservation into the construction. "We lived primitively while we cleaned up the property and conducted the environmental impact study. The natural resources and beauty of the site were going to be the main attraction, so exploiting them in any way would compromise what we wanted. Plus, it was the right thing to do."

Establishing the lodge "the right way" wasn't easy. The pair built and lived in a crude structure, battled wild dogs, alligators, snakes and spiders. Local skilled labor was scant, so Kimball and Viola did much of the clearing and building, "with machetes," he said. Little by little, they befriended and trained local workers to help. "It took us about five years to complete the buildings and another six months to set up the communications systems, but about six years from the time



The Kimball family, Jim, son Tres, wife Renee and daughter Boty, take in one amazing backyard at their eco-resort in Panama.

we started, we opened to the public."

Tranquilo Bay is now fully operational and garnering national media attention, including an article in the May 2008 issue of *Inc.* magazine ("Paradise the Hard Way," Leigh Buchanan). True to Kimball's word, the resort provides an upscale experience, an amazing array of adventure opportunities (kayaking, fishing, whitewater rafting, and diving), and pays meticulous attention to preserving and even restoring the environment. They preserve more than 80 of the 100 acres in the resort; they use a sustainable approach to their water system, waste management, and water usage; they educate all employees and guests on the protection and preservation of the local wildlife. They even partner with neighborhood and world agencies to protect the local environment, study the diverse species in their ecosystems, and identify and prosecute violators of environmental policies.

Kimball has learned some lessons as he has turned his dream into a reality in the jungle some 1,800 miles from home. "You work a big chunk of your life, so do something you are passionate about," he shared. He also believes it's important to think globally. "People don't always appreciate opportunities outside the USA. The opportunities to succeed *and* to make a big difference are available all over the world."

"Finally," Kimball said, "be cautious, but diligent. I don't regret what I did – I probably would have gotten richer had I stayed in Houston, but I probably would have died at 55 from a heart attack. To do what I love and have the ability to be close to my family is worth every penny I don't make. My kid's biggest problem is that he doesn't know how to play with a Wii...what a shame, eh?"

**To find out more, visit
www.tranquilobay.com**

"When you tell people you are leaving a successful job to move to the jungle, that look in their eyes can shake you if you aren't confident in what you are doing."

~ JIM KIMBALL, Texas '91

Two trips allow SigEps to help the world's communities

By MARK ALLEN, Kansas '78

"Building Balanced Leaders for the World's Communities" took on a practical dimension for alumni and undergraduates from Kansas in the summer of 2008. Two groups returned from worldly adventures with life-changing experiences both for themselves and those who they touched, for years to come. The men called it "Give Back to the World's Communities."

Care trip to Kenya

Five years ago, Dr. Steve Segebrecht, Kansas '77, brought together a group of doctors to make annual mission trips to the remote town of Maai Mahiu, Kenya. This town of about 25,000 is the center of a large tribal region in western Kenya and is on the notorious "AIDS highway." The townspeople have no ongoing medical care, but with the help of a U.S.-based relief agency, they built a clinic with exam and surgical rooms, hoping to attract medical doctors. That work paid off, at least for the annual visits!

Segebrecht and his fellow caregivers have treated about 5,000 patients. With dentists, ENT sur-

geons, head and neck surgeons, an obstetrics midwife, ER nurses, HIV counselors, and pharmacists engaged, the group brought primary care to over 1,000 patients this year alone.

"This mission trip changed my life," said Brad Cardonell, Kansas '09. He went on the trip for a new experience. "It brought me new insight into just how lucky we are to have the level of medical care we have in the U.S. No matter how remote you are in the States, it is 50 times better than the best care in the remote



Children wait outside the Maai Mahiu clinic. Even without windows and doors, over 300 people came each day and waited up to eight hours for basic medical care.

parts of Africa."

"Brad and Scott (another Kansas student volunteer) both had real life, and actually devastating, experiences that changed their views on how important basic medical care is to the world," states Brother Segebrecht. "When those guys delivered a baby, with very little medical help, out of the back

seat of an old taxi, to a very sick woman, they woke up to just what life was bringing to them. They grew up some that day."

The two-week mission trip represents Segebrecht's belief that we, who have grown up with many privileges, have a responsibility to give back to the world. He has had dozens of volunteers

help over the years, many of whom are repeat caregivers.

While the focus of the trip is primary and urgent medical care, the group made a short safari trip into the Masai Mara National Wildlife Refuge. "Have you ever petted a two and a half ton Rhino?" asked Cardonell. "That was life changing, too!"



Brother Brad Cardonell conquered his fear of this two-ton rhinoceros with its calf nearby.

"He who cares for his brother, cares for himself."

~ XENOPHON



Jayhawks to Jamaica

Steve Segebrecht is not the only member of his family to bring SigEp brothers to the world. His son **Ray Segebrecht, Kansas '10**, and a fourth generation SigEp, organized a trip to Kingston, Jamaica, for 12 brothers. The one-week trip, arranged through international relief agency Food for the Poor, brought the men a wide variety of ways to give back to the Jamaican community.

"We weren't there for the tourist stuff," said **J.R. Keller, Kansas '09**. "Our whole group wanted to do something that

The group assisted several families in building houses, worked on renovating a school building, served meals for the homeless, and visited a school where they played soccer and did some tutoring.

To create continuity, Segebrecht made sure that the group recruited men from different college classes. Five different graduating classes participated, and they have already begun lining up the coming summer's trip. To make these trips work financially, the group did some unique fundraisers. "I have become a

one in my sleep. I felt like I'd cooked more hamburger than Mickey D's does in a year!" Diligence at it's best!

The money they raised covered most of the expenses for the trip. The Kansas Alumni Board also provided funds for each brother who signed on to go. But Brother Segebrecht isn't satisfied with just one year of the trip.

"My dad has been doing his trips to Kenya for years and he showed me how important it is to give back," said Ray. "I love the idea of getting more and more of our guys

"Our whole group wanted to do something that would make a difference and give our Jamaican friends a lasting impression that Americans honestly want to be a part of the international community in some way other than as a tourist."

~ J.R. KELLER,
Kansas '09



Top: J.R. Keller, Kansas '09, sees some real joy as he lifts a child in the air at a school outside Kingston, Jamaica.

Above, left: Dan O'Neill, Kansas, '09, makes friends at a school for disabled children.

Above, right: The Kansas SigEp crew got busy painting the house they worked on for several days while they were in Kingston.



would make a difference and give our Jamaican friends a lasting impression that Americans honestly want to be a part of the international community in some way other than as a tourist."

burrito king," exclaims senior **Landon Plumer, Kansas '09**. "Ray had us making up thousands of burritos every weekend. I can probably make you

involved in these trips. We can make a real difference in the world. We want to do our part."

In Memoriam

The following is a partial listing of SigEps who have passed away in recent months. It is our chance to remember those brothers who, through their death, have reminded us that life is transitory.

William H. Bentley
Southern California '85

Commander Donald E. Cummings
Virginia '48

Peter D'Amato
Rutgers '62

John Danzenbaker
Bucknell '41

Charles Dunford
Tennessee '49

Douglas Dysinger
Bowling Green State '78

John Hamrick
Florida '65

Brian Hartigan
Illinois '90

Morgan Hartman
Nebraska '38

Joseph P. Hannon
Purdue '57

George Irvin
Penn State '50

John Jurewicz
Lawrence Tech '92

William Lea
Norwich '50

Kenneth Mast
Illinois '41

James P. McCarthy
Illinois '42

Robert L. McCune
Bradley '50

Mark W. Moody
Mississippi State '88

Fred Nassif
Boston '52

Matthew Oskay
Evansville '00

Wesley Roebuck
Indiana-Purdue '82

Ronald Rogers
Ball State '62

Ernest Schleusener
Boston '61

Harry Soyster
Western Michigan '57

Robert Steinmetz
Idaho State '60

Michael Swoboda
Missouri-Rolla '60

Cecil Underwood
Marshall '63

Undergraduates
Paul Fortini
New York '11

"Time is the most valuable thing that a man can waste."

~ THEOPHRASTUS

Lifelong volunteer Bob McCune succumbed in September

CRAIG TEMPLETON, KANSAS '81
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brother McCune received the Order of the Golden Heart, the Fraternity's highest award, in 1987.

Order of the Golden Heart recipient, **Robert L. McCune, Bradley '50**, passed away in September at the age of 80. Brother McCune received the Order of the Golden Heart, the Fraternity's highest award, in 1987.

McCune was a district governor in the early 60s and 70s, and Chairman of the Order of the Golden Heart nomination committee. In 1979, Brother McCune was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented for his outstanding service to the Fraternity. McCune was also a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation Board of Governors and a donor since 1975.

This past April, an 80th birthday and reunion celebration was held for Brother McCune at Loras College with more than a hundred family, friends and alumni in attendance. The evening was filled with many photos, memories and stories from Loras College and Iowa Eta alumni.

Brother McCune epitomized the "lifetime devotion" to the Fraternity that the Order of the Golden Heart represented for him. Few in our ranks have had such a profound impact on so many young men. Many volunteers link their involvement back to his influence on



Robert L. McCune, Bradley '50, (left) with Brother Ed Smith, Bradley '55

their lives as undergraduates. Brother McCune proved to us all how a little brotherly love can leave a lasting mark on a young man's life—a mark that gets passed on and on again. He will be missed.



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Missouri S&T chapter envisions new facility

By **CODY COX**, Missouri Science and Technology '11

The campus of Missouri Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla until January 2008) has seen tremendous construction in recent years. The new Residential College provides students with suite-style rooms in learning communities. In addition to university housing upgrades, several fraternities have plans for major renovations to offer more space and amenities to their members.

The Missouri Gamma Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) began to examine their chapter house, built in 1970, and found it does not meet the needs of today's members. The structure is in good shape and was well constructed 38 years ago, but the electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems have reached the end of their service lives, and the facility is not air-conditioned. While grandfathered into code standards at the time it was constructed, the facility must be updated to meet current codes.

The chapter is performing well, placing academically among the top three fraternities the past three semesters, ranking third in manpower, and competing in intramurals over the last five years as one of the top five fraternities. In looking toward the future,



the AVC felt they needed to promptly address the challenges of the facility. ***Our House...Our Home: The Campaign for Missouri Gamma*** was initiated to meet these needs and challenges.

The new chapter house will add 2,675 sq. ft. and create a safe living environment for 64 men that complies with current building codes for safety and the Americans with Disabilities Act, including an added stairwell for the upper floors. A new floor layout will improve study conditions and increase privacy through suite-style rooms. A new kitchen area, formal library and a house director suite will be created. The exterior façade of the structure is significantly changing to create a consistent architectural design, along with new windows, an outdoor patio area and a tiered courtyard opening into the basement. All internal systems (electrical, mechanical, plumbing, etc.) will

be replaced, and an air-conditioning system will be installed.

In 2007, the AVC engaged Pennington & Company, a fraternity and sorority fundraising company, to conduct a feasibility study and direct the capital campaign. Led by **Mike Hurst, '74**, Campaign Chairman, and a committee of **LeRoy Thompson, '56**, **Michael Kearney, '61**, **Barry Hayden, '65**, **Mike Smith, '65**, **Carl Schweser, '65**, **Larry Hendren, '73**, **Randy Sherer, '77**, and **Joel Rickman, '95**, the campaign has generated strong support from alumni and, as of December, raised over \$700,000 toward the campaign goal of \$1.5 million.

For more information about the campaign for Missouri Gamma, contact Mike Hurst, Campaign Chairman, at (314) 991-5517 or md_hurst@yahoo.com.